



SPECIAL EDITION

# PICK & SHOVEL GAZETTE

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## PRETTY IN PINK



Photo by Jim Jeffrey

Five-year-old Bella Baraglia sports a pink hat and water shoes to match her pink pan and scoop as she searches for gold in the San Gabriel River during an outing organized by American Prospector Treasure Seeker store in Temecula, Calif. Bella has been going prospecting with her parents, GPAA Lifetime members Jeff and Reb, since she was just three months old. **SEE STORY — Page 11**

## Frog, toad listing met with GOP opposition

*Proposed 'critical habitat' would close 2.1M acres to mining and recreation*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Frogs and toads were top billing at a forum hosted by two Republican California Congressmen Tom McClintock and Devin Nunes in August in Sonora, Calif.

### INSIDE

The yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad almost snuck into endangered and threatened species listings, respectively, but residents surrounding the land proposed for critical habitat designation spoke up in protest. The proposed listing would designate 1.1 million acres for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog; 221,498 acres for the northern district population segment of the yellow-legged frog and 750,926 acres for the Yosemite toad — a total of 2.1 million acres, but after factoring overlapping acreage, the area boils down to 1.8 million acres, according to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Sacramento Office Spokesperson Robert Moler.

*Environmental groups accused of using sue and settle tactics in land grab cases. See story, page 9*

"I expected strong opposition, because of all the feedback we've been getting from the dis-

**FROGS — Page 8**

## Feds decree seven-state mining ban

*Public Land Order 7818 withdraws 303,900 acres from new mining claims*

By AUTUMN LOVELL  
For the GPAA

Washington has withdrawn more than 300,000 acres from new mining claims in seven states over the next 20 years, the *Pick & Shovel Gazette* has learned.

The move comes as a slap in the

face to small-scale mining and organizations including the Gold Prospectors Association of America and other outdoor groups in the western states who have been fighting to keep these lands open.

This disturbing new trend in public land management has shifted land use priorities, or so it seems, to give

energy needs top priority over mining interests. This drastic change in federal policy is a clear violation of the Mining Law of 1872.

Public Land Order 7818, implemented in July and available online in the Federal Register, withdraws more than 300,000 acres of public land in

**MINING — Page 6**

## Dredgers pin hopes on May court case

By BRAD JONES  
GPAA Managing Editor

The motion for a preliminary injunction filed by Public Lands for the People to get California suction dredge miners back in the water has been denied.

The news does not sit well with tens of thousands of Gold Prospectors Association of America members and small-scale mining community who have been fighting against the dredging moratorium since it was imposed in 2009.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

About 75 gold prospectors gathered at a courthouse in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., in late August to show support for the small-scale mining community which has suffered under the statewide ban.

Public Lands for the People filed the motion for **DREDGERS — Page 2**

Pat Keene, right, talks to a Public Lands for the People supporter outside the courthouse in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., on Aug. 27. **Video still by Chris Culp**



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## DREDGERS: Court denies preliminary injunction to allow dredgers back in water

Continued from Page 1

a preliminary injunction earlier this year when the California courts continued to drag out the proceedings on six consolidated lawsuits over the suction dredging ban.

Judge Gilbert G. Ochoa has denied the preliminary injunction on the grounds that he did not find that miners have suffered irreparable harm from the statewide suction dredge mining ban imposed in 2009 under Senate Bill 670 and extended under Assembly Bill 120 and SB 1018.

### The term “recreational” mining

PLP President Jerry Hobbs was disappointed with the judge’s decision.

“He found that the miners did not suffer irreparable harm. If I had to guess why he felt the miners suffered no harm, it would be because about 80 percent of the miners that have been involved in this whole process consider themselves ‘recreational.’ No matter how much we have driven home to the public that they are not considered recreational, they still maintain that they are,” Hobbs said.

“Personally, I don’t feel there is such a thing as recreational mining simply because if someone could show them where they could pan an ounce of gold an hour, you could shoot dice on their shirttail as they are running to that spot. A mining claim has rules as to what can be done on a mining claim. Recreation is not on the list.”

Hobbs and the rest of the prospectors and miners who attended the court hearing expressed their outrage at the treatment they have received at the hands of the state, government agencies and California courts.

Though the preliminary injunction battle has been lost, the war over dredging in California is far from over, Hobbs said.

### Moratorium or prohibition?

PLP attorney David Young, suggested that not only have the California courts turned a blind eye to the setbacks miners have suffered under the dredging ban, but they have failed to recognize the statewide “moratorium” has dragged on for so long that it more aptly represents a permanent ban.

“Let me tell you something, temporary moratoriums are a lot like temporary taxes; they never seem to go away,” Young said “I don’t know of any temporary tax that didn’t become a permanent tax and it’s the same thing now with this moratorium. It’s a prohibition. It’s isn’t a moratorium; it’s a regulation and that’s what we’re challenging.”

Young said there is no end in sight to the “moratorium” as it stands.

“The way the statute banning suction dredge mining is written, there is no realistic way of ending the prohibition on suction dredge mining no matter what the state says and no matter what the environmental groups say. And that’s what we are challenging,” he said. “We’re challenging that primarily on ... the property rights clause of the United States Constitution.”

### The dredging war continues

Pat Keene, a small-scale mining equipment manufacturer based in California is fed up with the dredging ban, and has seen first hand the detrimental impact on his business and on the livelihood of dredgers.

Before the court convened, Keene, owner of Keene Engineering, said he hoped that common sense would prevail but that he expected the fight to continue.

“There is no way we can meet all of



Video still by Chris Culp

PLP attorney David Young says California’s statewide ban on suction dredge mining is prohibition, not a “moratorium” and violates the rights of gold prospectors and small-scale miners.

## NEWS ANALYSIS and OPINION

# What went wrong?

In short, the court failed to understand even the most basic concept of mining: One first has to *prospect* and find a significant gold deposit before one can *mine* as a full-time occupation to support oneself and one’s family. While GPAA members understand the difference between *prospecting* and *mining*, apparently the California courts do not. It shows just how far the Golden State has fallen away from its roots.

Gov. Jerry Brown might want to help save California from its deep economic malaise. One way is to put suction dredge gold miners back in the water — yesterday!

Because the whole premise for the dredging ban is that dredging supposedly *harms* fish, you would think the government would have solid scientific data to back up this claim. It doesn’t. What’s worse is that our legislators have ignored evidence that shows dredging *benefits* fish. Is it too much to ask that a proper independent scientific study be done on dredging?

It’s utterly ironic that the state is considering spending millions of dollars to dredge mercury from Lake Combie, while dredgers remove mercury for free, recover gold to support their families — or at least supplement their incomes — and have fun doing it! What is so bad about that? Suction dredge mining helps the environment and the economy. It should be embraced, not expelled.

**Height of hypocrisy:** The Democrats claim the state can’t afford to fund a dredging permit program while their federal counterparts spends millions of your tax dollars to study things such as why lesbians are fat: “Feds spend \$1.5 million to study lesbian obesity” — *Washington Times*, Tuesday, March 12, 2013. First came news of a \$400,000 taxpayer-funded grant to Yale University to study duck genitalia and then the feds doubled down with an \$880,000 grant to the University of Iowa to study the sex habits of New Zealand snails. Just ducky!

**Here’s a thought:** Maybe we should encourage overweight lesbians to come out dredging for gold. It’s good exercise! Then, perhaps, the snail researchers could study the procrastination habits of the slow-acting state courts. Just think, the state attorneys could spend some time outdoors and get back in touch with reality and people like gold prospectors who built this Golden State.

**BRAD JONES — GPAA Managing Editor**

the environmental [regulations] that they are trying to make us follow,” Keene said.

“I think it is going to continue to be a war. Hopefully the judge will allow us to get back in the water. That’s what he should do,” Keene said before the preliminary injunction was denied.

### The economic impact

Ron Kliever, a longtime Lost Dutchman’s Mining Association member and former PLP board member, attended the hearing.

“They are making criminals out of all us miners. Dredging is the only economical means to extract gold from the bottom of the rivers. There’s no other way to do it that is safe for the environment and is economical for small-scale miners in one-, two- and three-man crews,” Kliever said. “It’s great for small communities

in the outlying rural areas of California. It’s a big economic boost to them. They have been really suffering since 2009 when the dredging ban took effect.”

### Adding insult to injury

Royal Foust, a GPAA member who attended the court hearing, Aug. 27, said he left in disgust after listening to the state’s elitist attitude towards small-scale suction dredge miners.

Foust said the state’s attorney put the PLP attorney on the defensive by insinuating that all prospecting is “recreational” and that nobody should expect to earn a living from gold mining.

“He made light of it as if these people were never really serious,” Foust said. “I wasn’t at all surprised. I wish I could have testified to put that judge in his place. I got

# Oregon bans motorized placer mining

*Miners protest Senate Bill 838, set sights on challenge in federal court*

## NEWS ANALYSIS

By **BRAD JONES**  
GPAA Managing Editor

Despite widespread opposition from miners, Oregon has passed anti-mining legislation that bans all motorized placer mining within 100 yards of virtually all gold-bearing waterways in the state until Jan. 2, 2021.

Several hundred gold prospectors and miners rallied on the steps of the Oregon State Legislature in April in an attempt to thwart a raft of proposed anti-mining laws.

Nevertheless, the Senate voted to pass Senate Bill 838 in July and Gov. John Kitzhaber signed it into law Aug. 14. Some of the regulations will take effect Jan. 2, 2014, and the statewide ban will take effect Jan. 2, 2016.

SB 838 was introduced by the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources chaired by Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford, and co-chaired by Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland. Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, voted against the bill, while senators Fred Girod, R-Stayton, and Bruce Starr, R-Hillsboro, voted yes. No other senators crossed party lines. The bill passed the Senate July 3.

In the House on July 7, Rep. Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie, crossed party lines and voted with the House Republicans to oppose the bill while the remaining Democrats voted to pass it.

Meanwhile, in late August about 10 miners, upset about the impending motorized placer mining ban, gathered outside the medical practice of Sen. Bates, a vocal proponent of the anti-mining legislation, to voice their outrage.

The bill imposes fees, regulations and heavy fines for those who choose to disobey a "moratorium" on mining that uses "any form of motorized equipment for the purpose of extracting gold, silver or any other precious metal from placer deposits of the beds or banks of the waters of this state, as defined in ORS 196.800, or from other placer deposits, that results in the removal or disturbance of streamside vegetation in a manner that may impact water quality. The moratorium applies up to the line of ordinary high water, as defined in ORS 274.005, and 100 yards upland perpendicular to the line of ordinary high water that is located above the lowest extent of the spawning habitat in any river and tributary thereof in this state containing essential indigenous anadromous salmonid habitat, as defined in ORS 196.810, or naturally reproducing populations of bull trout, except



Photo by Mark Erikson

**Above:** Disheartened Oregon miners protest anti-mining legislation on the steps of the Oregon State Legislature last spring in Salem. **Below:** Oregon miners protest SB 838 which places a statewide moratorium on motorized placer mining. The miners demonstrated outside the medical practice of Oregon Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford, in late August.



in areas that do not support populations of anadromous salmonids or natural reproducing populations of bull trout due to a naturally occurring or lawfully placed physical barrier to fish passage."

Section 1 of the bill states that:

(1) Prospecting, small scale mining and recreational mining are part of the unique heritage of the State of Oregon.

(2) Prospecting, small scale mining and recreational mining provide economic benefits to the State of Oregon and local communities and support tourism, small businesses and recreational opportunities, all of which are economic drivers in Oregon's rural communities.

(3) Exploration of potential mine sites is necessary to discover the minerals that underlie the surface and inherently involves natural resource disturbance.

The bill goes on to claim that motorized mining equipment in the beds and on the banks of the rivers "can pose significant risks to fish and other wildlife,

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## DREDGERS

Continued from Page 2

an embarrassed feeling like I was being put down. Prospecting, to me, is no different than trying to develop a product to sell," Foust said. "You don't make any money at first."

Foust, whose grandparents were Depression-era gold miners in the Mother Lode region of California, said he joined the GPAA two years ago to teach his children and grandchildren about their family heritage of gold prospecting.

"I got into this to teach my kids," he said.

### GPAA members encouraged to fight suction dredging ban

The GPAA's Executive Director of Operations Dominic Ricci was on hand at the hearing to show support for members, PLP and everyone who has fought against the dredging ban.

"The GPAA has been trying very hard through its TV shows, publications and Gold & Treasure Expos to get the message out to the public that gold prospecting is not a crime; it's a right," Ricci said. "Dredging is not only beneficial to fish and fish habitat, but it removes mercury and lead (old lead shot and fishing weights) that have accumulated in our rivers, streams and lakes."

### Environmental benefits

Since the dredging ban was first signed into law by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009, mercury has now begun to pose a health risk, according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

The *Merced Sun Star* reported in early August: "A state environmental health agency has issued its first-ever set of

statewide guidelines for eating fish from California's lakes and reservoirs, including many in Northern California and the Sierra.

"The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's advisories are meant to help the public decide what fish can be safely eaten — especially from hundreds of lakes and for reservoirs that have not had fish consumption advisories established.

"Most bodies of water with fish-eating advisories — because fish sampled there have high levels of methyl mercury — are found in northern California and the Gold Rush country, as well as in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta."

### Consolidated court case slated for May 2014

The next battle in the fight to end the dredging ban is slated for May 2014, when the court is expected to decide the fate of dredging in six consolidated dredging cases involving PLP, mining groups, several government agencies and environmental groups.

In the meantime, there will be several motions and the acquisition of the complete record for all of the cases, Hobbs said.

"We were informed today that the record is several hundred thousand pages and is the largest record in the history of California Fish and Wildlife. The cost of that record to the plaintiffs (miners) could be \$100,000 or more," he said. "This is far more money than we could normally acquire, so again if we want to stay in this case we have got to rely on the miners and the clubs to help us raise the necessary funds. By staying in this lawsuit and fighting, we do not know the outcome yet, but we do know the outcome if we don't fight back."

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

■ Call your elected officials. If you don't know who they are, look online. They are easy to find and so are their email addresses, phone numbers and mailing addresses.

■ Stay informed. Read the *Pick & Shovel Gazette* and share it with your friends and neighbors. Check the website for up-to-date action alerts and breaking news. Faithfully renew your GPAA membership, which includes your subscriptions to the *Pick & Shovel Gazette*, your best source of small-scale mining news, and *Gold Prospectors* magazine to get a new generation of people involved in prospecting.

■ Join our facebook community at [www.facebook.com/GoldProspectors](http://www.facebook.com/GoldProspectors) and our online forums: [www.goldprospectors.org](http://www.goldprospectors.org).

■ Set an example. Be a responsible miner. Fill in your holes, pick up trash left by others and pack out what you pack in. Be mindful of the wildlife and respectful of Mother Nature. Teach your children and grandchildren the same.

■ Contact your local news media and tell them how miners are getting the shaft. Write a letter to the editor or respond respectfully to comments posted on various newspaper and news media forums. Be willing to go on the record or have the news reporter email Managing Editor/Communications Director Brad Jones at [content@goldprospectors.org](mailto:content@goldprospectors.org). Most often journalists will want to talk to a local source or local prospector.

■ Wear the GPAA "badge of honor." Become a Lifetime member and show others your commitment to land rights.

## OPINION

# Finding a cure for green fever!

At what point did green fever spread from the activist fringe to the U.S. Forest Service? When did Ranger Rick and Rachelle go from being the hosts of hinterland to bouncers of the backcountry — and the self-appointed *Planet Police*?

I can tell you that a good part of green fever began in the early '90s, the dawn of environmental extremism — the Earth Summit, fears of global warming (climate change), ozone depletion, carbon footprints, urban sprawl and the advent of wildlife corridors, the Kyoto Protocol and United Nations Agenda 21, the environmentalist blueprint for the 21st century. One generation later, we are seeing that “sustainable development” really means “environmental sprawl” and intrusion into our daily lives, businesses and public lands. It pushes an agenda that says “people belong in the cities, not the backcountry.” Agreed, some regulations and land management are necessary, but how much is too much? When is common sense afflicted by the green bug's bite?



Brad Jones

Anyway, here is my suggested cure for green fever: Replant some environmentalists from the cities in the forests to see just how extreme they really are in the wild. I would say a month or so without anything that is mined — no plastic or metal, guns, knives, stoves, fuel, batteries, water containers, vehicles, tents and definitely no heaters, air-conditioning or electronic devices should do it. How long would it be before our self-righteous urban campers started digging latrines, breaking branches, burning firewood, cutting trees down with Stone Age axes and killing plants, fish and other wildlife to feed and clothe themselves? *Reality TV* at its best! 'Nuff said.

We've gone from Greenpeace filming the senseless slaughter of seal pups in the late '80s and '90s to saving the Delhi Sands fruit fly, kangaroo rat, yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad and more than 3,000 other so-called “endangered” plant and animal species. In some places, it has almost become a “crime against nature” to step off the path, place a gold pan in the water or even take photographs. Parking rules, fees and “Adventure Passes” have hindered many from heading outdoors. In the meantime, the feds continue to tout America's Great Outdoors Initiative to “reconnect” us with nature. The wilderness is becoming a look-but-don't-touch open-air museum run by environmentalists with public lands as government-run theme parks.

It has gotten so ridiculous that some Forest Service rangers apparently now consider it their sworn duty to save Mother Nature from the barbarian hordes of fish-murderin', frog-stompin', knuckle-draggin' gold prospectors. Take the recent case of two U.S. Forest Service rangers who allegedly ran a couple of GPAA members off one of our mining claims California. The incident occurred without provocation other than at least one of the rangers didn't like the idea of a miner taking a hand shovel and blemishing the face of Mother Earth. Luckily, the prospectors had a Public Lands for the People challenge card and documented the rangers' names and badge numbers. Far too often, Forest Service rangers are either unaware of mining laws or simply skirt them. Ignorance of the law is no excuse — especially for rangers. Intimidating and harassing metal detectorists and gold prospectors under the color of the law is illegal, and according to PLP President Jerry Hobbs, “they do it almost daily.” Forest Service rangers have no authority to boot GPAA members off our claims. It is your right to ask them to cite the law you are allegedly breaking. Be polite and remain calm. Then, inform the GPAA Claims Department and PLP. Remember, public lands are “public”; they belong to you — not Mother Nature or any of her self-appointed minions.

— BRAD JONES, Managing Editor



## facebook forum

## My favorite *Gold Fever* moment was ...

A Facebook post that asked “My favorite episode of *Gold Fever* was \_\_\_\_\_” generated an overwhelming response. Here's what you said:

**Brannon Estay:** I like when you go and talk and enjoy time with the little people who do it because they love it. That is what makes the show great.

**Sean Brady:** All New ones on the website! ...

**Cara Signorelli:** Panama City, Kia's Slumber Party and Metal Detecting in Australia!

**Tom Larkins:** When you went underground with your two girls in the mine with the big bolder in the entrance tunnel ... I sure wish *Gold Fever* was on Comcast Demand and Netflix.

**Joe Wilson:** When Tom found gold!

**Dan Montesanti:** When I found the show ... that was when I decided to start prospecting. It helps that I live in northern California, too! One of my favorite ones is the Buzzard on the old bucket-line dredge he brought back to life. I would love to see more of that footage.

**David Dennis:** When Tom and Kia got into the dredging match and neither wanted to be the first out of the water.

**Brian Olson:** The one when Tom and his wife were deep in a cave and Tom broke the lantern and had no backup. The other is when he found old dynamite in a cave again with his wife.

**Joanna Genevieve Murakami:** The abandoned government cave thing ... with the amazing vein of gold ... Oh my GOD ... lol

**Tc Conroy:** Meeting the Massie family at the gold show here in Maine. (And the GPAA crew that came along). Kia forged the missing family members names and the surprised look on Tom's face when he signed his name and signature Pick & Shovel picture and asked me how I got the other two signatures. The show is great! More gold and prospecting shows (Discovery and TWC are still in your footsteps). How about giving Kia and Kael a show?



Photo by Adam Carr

Kael, Kia and Tom Massie.

**Mycal W Berkey:** When you showed up in New Mexico.

**Bob Wintle:** The episode when Tom went to the grave of his dad.

**Sean Christopher Glasby:** When Kia got mad about having a tick on her and walked away on her own.

**Jimmy Mecanic:** Boo Coo

**Bonnie Bollens:** When Tom, his wife and kids sat by a campfire and talked about their adventures of the past year.

**Richard Schorr:** When Tom and Kael went on that trip in Idaho, and he told stories about bigfoot, ol' man Brazington and such. They found some nice gold just sluicing!

**Kathy Croft:** Cindy dredging!

**Tom Burt Kingery:** Costa Rica.

**Roley Kiser:** When the bird flew out of the mine shaft.

**Arthur Wright:** When Tom slipped going over the log and landed on his butt.

**Brian Arment:** All of them!

**Steve Douros:** Tom, Kia and the Massie family are real. The Buzzard was real. The show is real. The Massies teach how to do recreational prospecting, which is what most of us do. Spending time with friends and family ... “finding the gold.” ... The other gold shows are Hollywood versions of “having the gold” — a bunch of whining, complaining, arguing grown men. Thumbs high for *Gold Fever*!

**Kyle Featherston:** When my

great grandfather was on the show.

**Mark Wright:** Seeing a one-pound nugget.

**Kevin Moore:** Panning with my sons, watching a cow elk feeding her calf.

**Nick Garza:** The one that started my madness! The episode where Tom and Cindy are underground and the lantern busts and they have to find their way out in the dark! Ouch! I had woke up early one Saturday morning on the couch with the TV still on the Outdoor Channel from watching fishing/hunting

FACEBOOK FORUM — Page 5

### WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?



The Gold Prospectors Association of America invites you to “like” our Facebook fan pages. Check out the GPAA, *Gold Fever* and Alaskan Facebook pages at: [www.facebook.com/GoldProspectors](http://www.facebook.com/GoldProspectors), [www.facebook.com/GoldFeverTV](http://www.facebook.com/GoldFeverTV), [www.facebook.com/AlaskanTheSeries](http://www.facebook.com/AlaskanTheSeries)

## OPINION

# Story on mining protest full of holes

*Response to an article published in Oregon's Medford Mail-Tribune*

By **TOM KITCHAR**  
Letter to Mail Tribune

The following is a response to a news story, "Bates' office protested over mining regulation" by Sam Wheeler which was published in the *Medford Mail Tribune* Aug. 31. The letter, sent by email, reads as follows:

Hi Sam,

I was unable to attend the protest at Bates' office Friday ... and I just saw a copy of your article on SB 838.

My name is Tom Kitchar, and I am the President of the Waldo Mining District (WMD) located around Cave Junction. The WMD is Oregon's oldest mining district, established April 1, 1852.

I was heavily involved with SB 838 all through the spring and up until the final vote. I made over a dozen trips to Salem, and testified to several committees ... and was, for the most part, completely ignored.

I made numerous attempts to meet with Sen. Alan Bates, any time, any place ... he never responded.

Bates' bill is nothing short of a witch hunt.

You have been fed a line of crap. Let's start with the numbers of permits. Bates' claim that SB 838 is necessary due to a huge increase in the number of suction dredge miners in the last few years. They claim a jump from approximately 700 to 800 permits issued in 2009 has jumped to just over 2,000 or so last year.

What they aren't telling you is that all through the 1980s and '90s, and up until 2005, DEQ was issuing nearly 2,000 permits annually (1986 of them in 2004-05 up to July 05). The number of permits dropped after July 2005 because we realized the permit was illegal! We took DEQ to court, and the permit was declared invalid in Dec. 2009 by the Oregon Court of Appeals. A new permit was issued in July of 2010, and is currently being challenged again as it contains the same fatal flaw as the old permit.

All that is happening is the number of permits is returning to pre-2005 numbers. (And yes, a few people from California have come to Oregon to dredge due to the illegal ban in California ... just as many Oregonians that used to go to California to mine are now staying in



Photo by Mark Erickson

Waldo Mining District President Tom Kitchar addresses a crowd of more than 300 miners outside the Oregon State Legislature in Salem last spring.

Oregon.

**THERE IS NO HUGE INCREASE OF DREDGERS!**

Now let's look at what the fishing industry had to say ... They claim dredging is bad for the fish/environment. This from people whose income comes from deliberately going out and killing or maiming fish! Not only that, but they also get to throw lead (a toxic metal) into our waters! And guess what? Suction dredge miners are the only ones who remove this lead ... at the tune of 100's of pounds every year, at no cost to the public.

You mention a five-year moratorium, but mistakenly say that the moratorium only becomes active is certain studies and permit are not in place by 2016. This is a mistake. This was language in an earlier version of the bill. As passed, the "A-10" amended bill calls for an automatic moratorium for five years regardless of any study or new permit.

Of most importance is the total disregard of the U.S. Mining Law. The state has left itself open to potentially billions of dollars in "takings" lawsuits!

SB 838 does not exempt mining on lands of the United States open to mining under the 1872 Mining Law.

Under both state and federal law, unpatented mining claims are "real

property" in the highest sense. Mining claims can be located on any public domain lands and once located, according to Congress, those lands are no longer considered "public." The 1872 Mining Law is a grant to the citizens of the minerals found on the public (federal) lands, and it includes the "right" to mine them. Without just compensation, there is a huge "taking."

The courts have consistently ruled that states and other local government CANNOT prohibit mining on federal lands.

And let's look at the science. Over the last 30-plus years, there have been several dozen scientific studies done on the effects of suction dredge mining. And, guess what? Not one study to date has shown a even remotely significant harm, and yet, several studies identified real beneficial effects on fish and the aquatic habitat.

We tried to show this to the legislators; they basically told us, 'We don't care about the science.'

"Of course dredging is harmful to fish ..." Oh really? Ask yourself: If dirty water killed fish, then why don't they all die in the winter?

Why was it OK to remove Savage Rapids and Gold Ray dams, allowing hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of

sludge to wash away down river in places, burying fish habitat 10 or more feet deep in sludge?

Suction dredge mining adds nothing to the water. Besides gold, we remove lead, mercury and any other heavy metals — all at no cost to the taxpayer. Studies have shown that for years after dredging these areas sometimes offer the only suitable spawning beds for fish.

I could go on and on, but I do not know you. Who knows, you may be one of those wacko so-called environmentalists who won't listen to our side anyway.

None of this is new ... dredge mining has been under constant attack since the 1990s.

If you would care to learn more, feel free to contact me. Have a nice day.

By the way, you quoted Bates' reaction to the protest as an "overreaction." [on the part of the miners]. "We're not out to hammer people ..." [Bates said.]

BS! No, he's just destroying the lives of thousands of Oregonians and the living heritage of the miners who first settled southwest Oregon. He's lucky all he's seen so far is a small protest. This will get ugly before it is over.

*Tom Kitchar is the President of the Waldo Mining District in Oregon. He can be reached at mythicalmining@cavenet.com*

## facebook forum

Continued from Page 4

shows the night before. There was this guy with a metal detector and he said he was looking for gold, so I perked up to check it out. He was finding gold nuggets when he busted the lantern and the way his wife was berating him I knew it wasn't a fake or staged accident! I was cracking up on the couch and just had to know what this crazy show was, so I started recording them and then I got bit by the gold bug!

**Emily Hughes:** All of them! Enjoy seeing Cindy on the show, too.

**Melody Ivey:** All of them. The histo-

ry of mineral mining.

**Steve Schauls:** Having both my sons on the dredge.

**Brett Beaudette:** Several but the sleep over in the cave with Kia and Tom finds the scale, nugget and Chinese coins stashed in the rocks! When Tom comes out of the cave in the Mother Lode episode OK! Man, I was worried the mud was gonna overload the big guy. The look of relief and lesson learned when he sees his wife was pure elation of being thankfully alive. Gold Fever rocks!

**Jonathan E Lamb:** I really liked watching him find nuggets around Skull Valley, Ariz.

**Chisel and Plane Workshop:** Working in the culvert in the cold water of Alaska. There's a tip! Love all the shows ... Like the little skits, too.

**Steve Stewart:** Any mine episode.

**Lea Nancy E Hall:** I also like the culvert dredging in Alaska. I wondered why Tom didn't set up a sluice on the end of the culvert and take a broom to the rifles in the culvert. Also, any time Tom explains how to read a river or the lay of the land.

**Linda Webb:** All of them, especially the one about his cute puppy and when he visited his dad.

**John Jenkins:** ... meeting Tom at a

gold show.

**Deb Newsome Jackson:** When you found the little "old" scale and the little metal box with gold in it in the cave. Also, when you found all the surplus supplies! Don't eat those crackers!

**Ashley D Lake:** "The Return to Stanislaus," when you do the clean out and any one Kia is on. She's my fave, even though, Tom, you are super funny you make me feel like I'm just part of your family. Thanks for giving me that gold fever. I hope some day we can meet and do a little mining together, which I know is just a crazy dream, but I can always dream!

## MINING

Continued from Page 1

Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah from new mining claims for the next 20 years. In addition to stopping all new permits, this withdrawal will restrict mining claims in multiple regions in an effort to create Solar Energy Zones in regions that have been surveyed and identified by the federal government as prime areas for utility-scale solar development.

Withdrawal from mineral entry has been used in the past to create national parks and military bases, but this is the first time a withdrawal is being implemented to encourage green energy development. This order, created by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, sets the pace for the Obama administration's energy and land use policy for the next few years.

The Obama administration has committed to clean energy, and Bureau of Land Management Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze recently stated in a news release that "The Public Land Order protects the integrity of the Solar Energy Zones and helps us meet President Obama's goal of green-lighting enough public lands to power more than 6 million homes by 2020."

The Interior Department currently estimates that projects developed in the new SEZs could power 1.8 million homes, if they are successfully implemented.

President Barack Obama has promised to streamline the process for solar development in SEZs, however there are still several barriers between the implementation of PLO 7818 and the actual creation of energy generating utility-sized solar projects, according to the land rights group, Public Lands for the People.

All of the solar plants will have to pass through a vigorous environmental assessment which will culminate in an Environmental Impact Statement, showing that placing solar farms in these regions will not harm any critical ecosystems or species, said PLP President Jerry Hobbs.

The projects themselves will require new right-of-ways and, in addition to generating electricity, the companies will also have to build an infrastructure which can transmit the new electricity to nearby communities. The process will be long and arduous and, in the meantime, the land will remain closed, he said.

This process will be the same in all of the SEZs. Utility companies in at least one state, Utah, have already identified some of these problems in approximately 18,000 acres of

withdrawn land there, according to local reports by Ladd Egan of KUTV.

While "creating clean energy" may sound like a noble cause, the impact on small-scale mining and other outdoors uses is devastating.

Hobbs said that PLO 7818 is just another land grab.

"Land is locked up one part at a time," he said. "Patience is their game ... until it's too late to do anything."

This withdrawal is another step in a dangerous direction for those who want to keep public lands public. The erosion of outdoor



Jerry Hobbs

**“We urge all outdoors groups to stand with us and get more vocal until our voices are heard. Stay informed on the issues affecting you and your access to public lands and hold your elected representatives responsible for their decisions and policies. And, most importantly ... send a strong message to the White House that you want your land and your freedom back.”**

areas for public use is becoming a threat to prospectors and all outdoors enthusiasts.

Public lands only exist in the western United States. There is no public land east of the Mississippi.

"It's all government and private owned," Hobbs pointed out.

Not only does PLO 7818 prevent any new mining claims, but it creates vicious loopholes that make it difficult — if not impossible — for claims that have been grandfathered in to ever be actively prospected, Hobbs said.

"Those (claims) that were there won't be able to be mined without a mining plan," he said.

The mining plan is a process filled with hurdles and financial barriers, essentially trampling all over mining rights and grandfather clauses prior to the current PLO.

The regions withdrawn to create the SEZs are large tracts of land and somewhat diverse. An interactive map is available at: [www.solareis.anl.gov/sez](http://www.solareis.anl.gov/sez)

Although there have been some government sponsored surveys of these regions, many have been unexplored, Hobbs said, so it is hard to determine the value of this loss to the mining community and our country.

Ironically, the now restricted regions may even have some of the rare metals needed to build the solar panels that are going into the SEZs and only increase American reliance on imported metals.

PLP and the GPAA have been fighting to keep public lands open to the public, including future generations of gold prospectors and outdoor enthusiasts.

"We are counting on this generation to fight the good fight and protect a way of life that is priceless to us all," Hobbs said. "If you don't help your neighbor when his house catches fire, there will be nobody there to help when it happens to you."

The GPAA is urging its members to support the PLP and other land rights groups.

"We encourage everyone, whether they are members or not, to pay attention to the loss of public lands and start taking these endless land grabs and restrictions as an assault on their liberty," said GPAA Managing Editor/Communications Director Brad Jones.

"We urge all outdoors groups to stand with us and get more vocal until our voices are heard," Jones said. "Stay informed on the issues affecting you and your access to public lands and hold your elected representatives responsible for their decisions and policies. And, most importantly, maintain your membership in the GPAA and send a strong message to the White House that you want your land and your freedom back."

Autumn Lovell is a freelance writer based Oregon. She can be reached at [amistlovell@gmail.com](mailto:amistlovell@gmail.com)

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**OREGON**

Continued from Page 3

riparian areas, water quality, the investments of this state in habitat enhancement and areas of cultural significance to Indian tribes.”

Galice Mining District spokesman Kerby Jackson said the new law is far-reaching and will not only ban dredging, but highbanking, power sluicing and even some compact gold processors.

“If you own a 20-acre placer claim, they are not going to let you use motorized mining equipment within 300 feet on either side of each one of these waterways.”

The essential salmon habitat listed and the tributaries to those waterways virtually covers every stream in the state, Jackson said.

“So, if you figure it out, that’s 600 feet plus the waterway. Your average placer claim is only 660 feet wide, so ... 89.5 percent of your claim is what it comes down to.”

Though Jackson is a primarily a lode miner, he fears that state agency officials will mistakenly view his operation as placer mining.

“They’re not trained to know the difference,” he said.

Referring to the statewide ban on suction dredge mining in California, Jackson said the Oregon ban is even more devastating to miners.

“What they’ve done here is way worse than anything they did in California. At least in California, they specified suction dredge mining and not all motorized mining.”

Waldo Mining District President Tom Kitchar echoed Jackson’s sentiments.

“They could have just banned mining on state land, but now they’ve hit us with this atomic bomb and even banned [motorized placer] mining on federal land where we have a congressionally granted right to mine,” Kitchar said. “The environmentalists don’t have any clue as to what the word ‘right’ means anymore or they understand and they just don’t give a damn.”

In the meantime, Kitchar and Jackson and other mining groups have begun to rally for support to continue the fight to save their passion, livelihoods and way of life.

Jackson has urged the federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C., to step up to the plate and tell the state legislators that it is up to the feds to manage mining on public lands — not the state.

“We’re trying to see if the BLM in Washington has any interest in protecting our rights,” Kitchar said.

“Another option we are exploring now is filing suit in federal court,” he said.

Kitchar said he is disappointed in the callous disregard Bates has shown toward miners and said has reached out to the senator many times to listen to his concerns and address any questions he may have about the mining industry in Oregon. So far, his calls have gone unanswered

“I’m sure he talked to environmentalists; I’m sure he talked to people who hate mining, but he never bothered to talk to people who mine,” Kitchar said.

“It really sounds like he is trying to stop mining in the Rogue River,” he added.

With one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, Oregon doesn’t need to put more nails in the coffins of primary industries such as of timber and mining, Kitchar said.

As far as the blow to the small-scale mining including equipment manufacturers and small prospecting supply stores, Kitchar expect the fallout to be worse than that which followed the suction dredge ban in California.

“You are never going to stop everybody from mining. Some of us are remote enough or don’t give a damn or don’t have enough to lose,” he said. “But it will cripple the industry greatly.”

Jackson said he intends to continue shifting the pressure and negative attention he receives from frustrated miners to Bates.

Besides litigation, Jackson said Oregon miners need to educate the public and demonstrate that dredging does not harm fish or fish habitat and publish scientific studies that prove it is beneficial for salmon spawning.

“The other thing we need to educate people about is there really is an agenda” he said.

Jackson suggested that the politicians in Oregon are in bed with the environmentalist movement’s green agenda and that the two entities are one and the same.

“We have the fishing outfitters just beating up on us and they have teamed up with the environmentalists,” he said.

Jackson said that miners first need to reach out to fishermen and explain the science of dredging, show that it can actually benefit fish and work together against the green extreme.

Jackson is convinced that if the fishermen don’t help support the miners, that they and other outdoors groups such as rafters, off-roaders and hunters will become the next target.

“They’ll be next,” he said. “My message to fishermen is that they are basically being used as a club to beat on the miners and once we’re re gone, the environmentalists are just going to come after them.”

*Brad Jones is Managing Editor/Communications Director for the Gold Prospectors Association of America. He can be reached at [bjones@goldprospectors.org](mailto:bjones@goldprospectors.org)*

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## FROGS

Continued from Page 1

trict, but the overwhelming nature came as a surprise,” McClintock said. “There were over 400 people in that packed hall, and when I asked for a standing vote of how many supported the plan, 11 people stood up. That tells you a lot right there.”

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services published the proposal to list these two species April 25 and allowed a 60-day comment period, but McClintock along with seven other Republican Representatives Doc Hastings, Kevin McCarthy, Devin Nunes, Cynthia Lummis, David Valadao, Doug LaMalfa and Rob Bishop submitted a letter on June 19 requesting an extension of the comment period. They were allotted a 120-day extension ending in November.

The letter submitted to Judge Daniel M. Ashe, Director of Fish & Wildlife Services expressed concern that “critical habitat designations will likely cause severe restrictions on land access and could limit or forbid activities such as grazing, trout stocking, logging, mining and recreational use resulting in a devastating impact on the local economy.”

Moler said there is not enough evidence to suggest a critical habitat designation would cause considerable harm to the local economy.

“In Congressman McClintock’s public notice at the meeting, he mentioned that these proposals would have wide-reaching economically damaging consequences. And, that’s a valid concern, but there’s no way to tell that at this stage what the effects would be,” said Moler, who was still awaiting the release of the Draft Economic Analysis. “People think we’re closing down forests; we are not. People think critical habitat restricts public access; it does not.”

The letter also noted concerns that Fish & Wildlife personnel were “refusing to meet with localities to explain this proposed listing.”

The concern that surrounding communities were not consulted or even factored into the proposal for critical habitat designation was raised once again at the forum.

“When it was pointed out that every locally-elected governing body representing the people in the region affected has strongly opposed the designation and asked whether that was taken into account in the Fish & Wildlife deliberations, the answer was a deer in headlights stare back,” McClintock said.

Moler said much of the argument is lost in translation and due to misinformation.

“We certainly don’t say ‘OK, this frog’s in danger, no more logging.’ No, logging needs to happen; we understand that, but let’s do it in a way that considers the recovery of the threatened and endangered species,” Moler said. “People thought we were closing down forests. We’re not closing down forests; we can’t close down forests ... critical habitat sounds like it’s a land grab to some people, but the only thing we’re doing is we’re identifying those areas that are important to the conservation of that species because that species needs to live.”

The letter requesting an extended comment period also questioned the need for listings, noting that “a ‘large number’ of mountain yellow-legged frog locations within wilderness areas is already afforded habitat protection via the Wilderness Act. Second, Fish and Wildlife also seems to be discounting the protections afforded to the mountain yellow-legged frog under the California Endangered Species Act.” Of the 1.8 million acres proposed for critical habitat designation, 1.2 million acres are considered “wilderness lands,” Moler said.



## 2 MILLION-ACRE WITHDRAWAL PROPOSED FOR CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE SIERRA

### Proposed critical habitat by category

(in acres)

| County                    | Federal land          | State land        | Private land       | Total critical habitat | Acres by county | % of county with critical habitat |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alpine .....              | 190,275 .....         | 2,578 .....       | 8,149 .....        | 201,002 .....          | 472,960 .....   | 42                                |
| El Dorado.....            | 77,891 .....          | — .....           | 5,300 .....        | 83,191 .....           | 1,095,680.....  | 8                                 |
| Fresno .....              | 665,953 .....         | 1,225 .....       | 217 .....          | 667,395 .....          | 3,816,320.....  | 17                                |
| Madera.....               | 52,099 .....          | 747 .....         | — .....            | 52,846 .....           | 1,368,320.....  | 4                                 |
| Mariposa.....             | 17,438 .....          | — .....           | — .....            | 17,438 .....           | 928,640.....    | 2                                 |
| Mono .....                | 101,794 .....         | — .....           | — .....            | 101,794 .....          | 1,948,160.....  | 5                                 |
| Nevada.....               | 80,914 .....          | — .....           | 57,369 .....       | 138,283 .....          | 613,120.....    | 23                                |
| Placer .....              | 5,921 .....           | — .....           | 3,365 .....        | 9,286 .....            | 961,920.....    | 1                                 |
| Plumas.....               | 69,252 .....          | 131 .....         | 6,192 .....        | 75,575 .....           | 1,634,560.....  | 5                                 |
| Sierra .....              | 13,945 .....          | — .....           | 1,758 .....        | 15,703 .....           | 609,920.....    | 3                                 |
| Tulare .....              | 213,166 .....         | — .....           | 24 .....           | 213,190 .....          | 3,112,320.....  | 7                                 |
| Tuolumne.....             | 501,657 .....         | 288 .....         | 176 .....          | 502,121 .....          | 1,431,040.....  | 35                                |
| <b>Total acreage.....</b> | <b>1,990,305.....</b> | <b>4,969.....</b> | <b>82,550.....</b> | <b>2,077,824</b>       |                 |                                   |

Source: Federal Register notice

In addition to the letter, McClintock wrangled up a panel for the August meeting, which included: Alexandra Pitts, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Deputy Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest Region; Mike Applegarth, principle analyst for El Dorado County; Kelly Wooster, a cattleman in Calaveras County; Randy Hanvelt, supervisor for Tuolumne County; Steve Brink, Vice President of Public Resources for the California Forestry Association and Mark Baird, Vice President of the Siskiyou County Water Users Association.

The forum not only addressed concerns raised by the public, but it also pinpointed the main threats facing amphibians in the Sierra Nevadas including wildfires and disease.

### Burning out of control

“In the Sierras, you can only support about 40 to 100 trees per acre and be resistant to insects, disease and wildfire, and on average, the [U.S.] Forest Service’s own information shows they average 266 trees per acre today. So, surprise, surprise it’s burning up like crazy,” said Brink, who sat on the frog and toad panel. “These wildfires are getting more intense ... we’re experiencing fire behavior like we never have before.”

Overgrowth and lack of harvesting can be traced back to another critical habitat designation — the northern spotted owl, Brink said.

“Back in the ‘80s, they were harvesting about one-third of the annual growth. Since the owl wars in the early ‘90s, they’ve been harvesting seven percent of the annual growth. In the last 20 years, we have added 40 tons per acre of new vegetation, and so we’re seeing the result,” Brink said.

“Nature’s gonna take care of it if we’re not gonna take care of it. Unfortunately, biologists don’t want to talk about it, but our environmental standards in California and management practices

to protect the environment makes nature look horrible.”

In the last six years, wildfires have incinerated more than 30 spotted owl territories in the Plumas and Lassen national forests, Brink said.

“We’ve got 20 years of experience of species-specific habitat designation now — in this case, in the form of the northern spotted owl — and they don’t work,” Brink said. “There is plenty of evidence that habitat designation just steers regulatory agencies, human and monetary resources in the wrong direction.”

Not only do the designations “not work,” but they are never ending. Leading scientists involved in spotted owl population recovery in the early ‘90s said that 3,000 pairs of owls would be considered a viable population. However, there are more than 3,000 known pairs of spotted owls in northern California alone now and Fish & Wildlife continues to set aside critical habitat for the species. Half of those 3,000 spotted owl pairs live on Green Diamond Industrial Forest Land, which is second-growth redwood, Brink said. Still, in January Fish & Wildlife Services set aside another 9.5 million acres throughout Washington, Oregon and California for the spotted owl — this is in addition to the 18 million acres designated in the ‘90s.

Despite Brink’s argument, Moler said the listing of the yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad is a very different animal.

“A lot of people are looking at [the spotted owl] and some of the emotions involved in this proposal come from that, but these are massively different species and a massively different proposal,” Moler said. “It’s significant enough that I don’t know that the spotted owl is an appropriate analogy.”

### The silent killer of the yellow-legged frog

Two words: Chytrid fungus.

Never heard of it? That’s because it’s a silent killer — of frogs.

Chytridiomycosis is a disease that attacks amphibians and is caused by a pathogenic fungus, according to an article published in 2008 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled “Are we in the midst of the sixth mass extinction? A view from the world of amphibians.”

According to David Wake, professor of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and Vance Vredenburg, associate professor of ecology and evolution at San Francisco State University, this disease plagues amphibians from Australia to the Sierra Nevadas of California.

“Although most of the frog habitat in this large mountain range is protected in national parks and wilderness areas, yellow-legged frogs are now documented to have disappeared from more than 90 percent of their historic range during the last several decades,” according to the article.

While the cause of the yellow-legged frog population decrease was originally believed to point toward the introduction of predatory trout, disease and air pollution, the removal of trout and reintroduction of frogs didn’t seem to improve frog numbers in the Sierra Nevadas, according to Wake and Vredenburg’s research.

This suggested the main problem was not predation or pollution, but the chytrid fungus.

According to the research of Wake and Vredenburg, “Survival of infected frogs after an apparent outbreak has been seen in Australia, but is unknown in the Sierra Nevada frogs. The yellow-legged frogs of the Sierra Nevadas are an ideal species in which to test this because they live in discreet habitat

☛ FROGS — Page 9

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STUDY ALLEGES ...

# Environmentalists use sue and settle tactics

*Most 'friendly' suits happen within the environmental realm*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Sue and settle tactics are no urban legend. A study released in May by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce verifies that these tactics are being used across the board between environmental groups and government agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services.

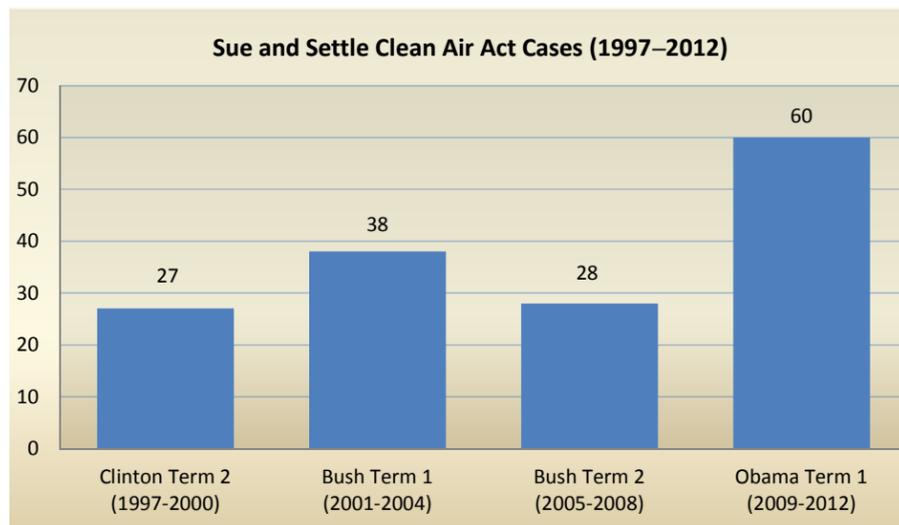
According to the study, "Sue and settle occurs when an agency intentionally relinquishes its statutory discretion by accepting lawsuits from outside groups which effectively dictate the priorities and duties of the agency through legally binding, court-approved settlements negotiated behind closed doors — with no participation by other affected parties or the public."

Agencies are not required to inform the public of these lawsuits, so many times they go unnoticed until a suit is settled and legally binding, according to the Chamber study.

Aside from this study, attorney generals from 12 states took a stand and sued the EPA back in July demanding that the agency release documents to the states that will allegedly show the EPA has been making backdoor deals with environmental groups. Besides disclosing current records, the attorney generals of Oklahoma, Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wyoming hope the lawsuit will lead to new regulations on the EPA.

The Chamber, which began its sue and settle study in 2011, found that "the overwhelming majority of sue and settle actions from 2009 to 2012 have occurred in the environmental regulatory context," specifically in relation to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

From 2009 to 2012, a total of 71 lawsuits were settled using sue and settle tactics, according to the Chamber study.



Of those 71 lawsuits, 34 were brought by the Sierra Club; 20 by WildEarth Guardians; nine by Natural Resources Defense Council; six by the Center for Biological Diversity and the remainder by other environmental groups.

According to a report that was published in August 2011 by the United States Government Accountability Office, environmental groups profited more from EPA litigation than any other groups between 1995 and 2010. In fact, the report shows that environmental group Earthjustice received nearly \$5 million, or 32 percent of all attorneys' fees paid to EPA litigants. The Sierra Club received their piece of the pie with \$966,687.34, and the Natural Resources Defense Council received \$252,004.87. Altogether, these three groups received

41 percent of all the attorneys' fees awarded to EPA litigants, according to the GAO report entitled "Environmental Litigation: Cases against EPA and associated costs over time."

Taxpayers are also making their contribution to environmental agencies whether they like it or not. On top of attorneys' fees awarded, the GAO found that the Department of Justice spent at least \$43 million in taxpayer dollars defending EPA in court from 1998 to 2010.

The Endangered Species Act is just one in the "holy trinity" of sue and settle case allstars. In May and July 2011, Fish & Wildlife Services agreed to two consent decrees with an environmental advocacy group, which require the agency to propose adding more than 720 new candidates to the list of endangered

species, according to the Chamber study.

"According to the director of FWS, in FY 2011, FWS was allocated \$20.9 million for endangered species listing and critical habitat designation; the agency spent more than 75 percent of this allocation (\$15.8 million) taking the substantive actions required by court orders or settlement agreements resulting from litigation. In other words, sue and settle cases and other lawsuits are effectively driving the regulatory agenda of the Endangered Species Act program at FWS," according to the Chamber study.

If critical habitat is designated for the yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad in the Sierra Nevadas, sue and settle tactics will likely take their toll again, said Steve Brink, Vice President of Public Resources for the California Forestry Association.

"Anytime there's a new listing of a species and there's some proposed remedy like a habitat designation, it's fertile ground for litigation," Brink said.

Congressman Tom McClintock said sue and settle tactics have been at play in the Yosemite Valley, where an environmental group is trying to ban many forms of tourist recreation.

"You can see that at work in the Yosemite Valley where they're trying to ban raft rentals, bicycle rentals, horseback riding rentals. They're trying to close swimming pools, facilities," McClintock said. "All this is the result of a settlement between a radical environmental group and a most cooperative parks service, part of which involved forking over more than \$8 million of taxpayer money to this environmental group. And, I don't recall seeing that scandal even mentioned in any newspaper accounts."

Not only is money disappearing into the hands of environmental agencies, but McClintock said Congress-appropriated funds given to the U.S. National Parks Service have also vanished without a trace.

"When the floods wiped out nearly half the campsites in Yosemite Valley, Congress appropriated nearly \$17 million to replace those campsites," McClintock said. "The money was spent; the campsites were never rebuilt."

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.

## FROGS

Continued from Page 8

patches, are relatively easy to capture and are highly philopatric."

Despite the research, Brink said Fish & Wildlife Services continues to move full-steam ahead toward endangered and threatened species listings. Brink said Pitts, the Fish & Wildlife Services representative on the panel was not open to any other explanations concerning population decline.

"[Pitts] was completely uninformed and not prepared. She didn't know anything about the chytrid fungus, which is lethal to the yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad ... she acted as if she didn't know that," Brink said. "I was just astounded. She's supposed to be the regulator, making a proposal to list them and of how to take care of it."

Instead of leaping into an endangered species listing, Brink said Fish & Wildlife should look to sound science and make efforts to remedy the situation by introducing known anti-fungal bacteria to the populations.

"[Pitts] is fixated on the habitat des-

ignation," Brink said. "If the fungus is killing all the yellow-legged frogs and toads in park and you lay a habitat designation on all the frogs and toads, what is that going to do for the frogs and toads? Absolutely nothing."

People are not the primary factor, but may contribute to the loss of amphibian life and habitat, Moler said.

"These proposals are based upon all the available research and science from the fungus all the way down. Are humans the problem? No, I would not say humans are the problem. It's humans that are rising to the challenge of conserving and protecting the species," Moler said. "Yes, there are some activities that are threats to the species. That's what the science says; one of them is this fungus, but are people — our movements, distribution, our highways — is that a contributing factor?"

While the frog and toad habitat designation may prove useless to both populations, it would undoubtedly affect an already-struggling economy in the Sierra Nevadas by impacting everything from tourism to mining.

"Whether it's recreation activity,

whether it's grazing allotment, timber harvest, whatever; it will lead to less activity because the Forest Service will have to go through a process and consult with the regulatory agency for every single project that falls within that habitat designation," Brink said. "And, they don't have the staff or the monetary resources today to do the work they currently have."

Still, Moler said all activity could continue where applicable.

"We would work together to ensure that normal practices, such as logging, grazing and mining could continue with an eye on the conservation of the species," he said. "And, we do that by recommending ways to minimize impacts, avoid impacts and when there's going to be impacts, what you can do to mitigate those impacts offsite."

Moler said FWS hopes to have a decision by 2014, though one must be reached by April 2014 per ESA requirements.

"We are a compassionate organization. By law, we have to make our decisions based on science and for that reason ... we would never make a proposal

like this that was not justified," Moler said. "Really, the Fish & Wildlife did a lot of heavy lifting over many years for the public to ensure that we looked at all the science and to get us to a certain point. We get a lot of people who say we are opposed to this. We are listening and we understand that; however, what we use is science."

While the forum was not a congressional hearing, McClintock is looking to move in that direction and said it is important for the public to get involved and voice their concerns in writing.

"The stories that people told about struggling because of the enormous burden from federal regulations that have already been imposed made it very clear to me that the real endangered population in the Sierra Nevadas is homo sapiens," McClintock said. "It seems as if the federal government has adopted this radical leftist philosophy that human beings are a bane to Mother Nature ... it's almost as if they want the public off the public's land."

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.

MINING YOUR  
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MINING COS.By **LESTER ORDWAY**  
For the GPAA

As gold prices have slumped in 2013, contrarian investors have started to turn to gold mining companies and their related Index and Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF).

For the investor, there is no shortage of publicly traded companies from which to choose. Miningfeeds.com lists 231 publicly traded gold mining companies through-



Lester Ordway

out the world. Some of the larger market cap companies include Goldcorp Inc. (GG), Barrick Gold Corp. (ABX), Newmont Mining Co. (NEM), AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. (AGG.AX) and Newcrest FPO (NCM.AX) to name a few.

Those investors interested in spreading the risk across the gold sector may be interested in ETFs that track the underlying gold index. These funds invest in mostly the same mining companies, albeit with different weightings and different cost structures. Some of the more notable ETFs include SPDR Gold Trust (GLD), Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF (GDX) and Direxion Daily Gold Miners Bear 3x Shares ETF (DUST). Like gold bullion, as a group these equities have not fared well in 2013. The Market Vectors Gold Miners EFT (GDX) is currently trading around \$30, down 46 percent from its 52-week high of \$55.25. Similarly Goldcorp Inc (GG) is currently trading at \$31.40, down 41 percent from its 52 week high of \$47.42. Such has been the 2013 story for the miners.

As of late, however, there has been resurgence in the price of these equities as investors reposition for what some are likening to a 1987-style market correction. This move upwards, bounce if you will, seems to be tied directly to the price of bullion. Gold spot prices have steadily moved higher over the last 12 years starting in 2001 when the price for an ounce of gold closed the year at \$277 and ended 2012 at \$1,664 (prices from The 2nd London Gold Fix).

This year, gold prices plunged to \$1,192 on June 28, a three-year low, taking the equities along for the ride. If you do the math, you'll find that gold prices are down about 17 percent this year, a significantly smaller drop than the decline in the values for the gold equities.

What ends up happening is that the equity prices tend to move with the price of gold bullion. The difference being that the price changes for equities are magnified. An uptick in gold prices tend to have the stocks move up in a greater percentage while the opposite is true in reverse. Equities are inherently more risky than owning gold bullion and the laws of risk and reward are at play for everyone to see.

**Future price of gold**

So what are the pundits saying about the future price of gold?

The answers seem to be tied to the general economy where there is much concern. Popular commentators Jim

ORDWAY — Page 11

## 'Smart money' seeks alternatives

Traditional investors are wary of modern megabank ways

By **MICHAEL FOSTER**  
For the GPAA

Increasingly, institutional investors are looking to make bets outside of the modern banking system in alternative investments. Whether this is private equity, commodities or venture capital funding of startups, more and more professional investors managing assets worth billions of dollars are looking for alternatives to the large banks that were once considered the safest way to make money.

Not anymore.

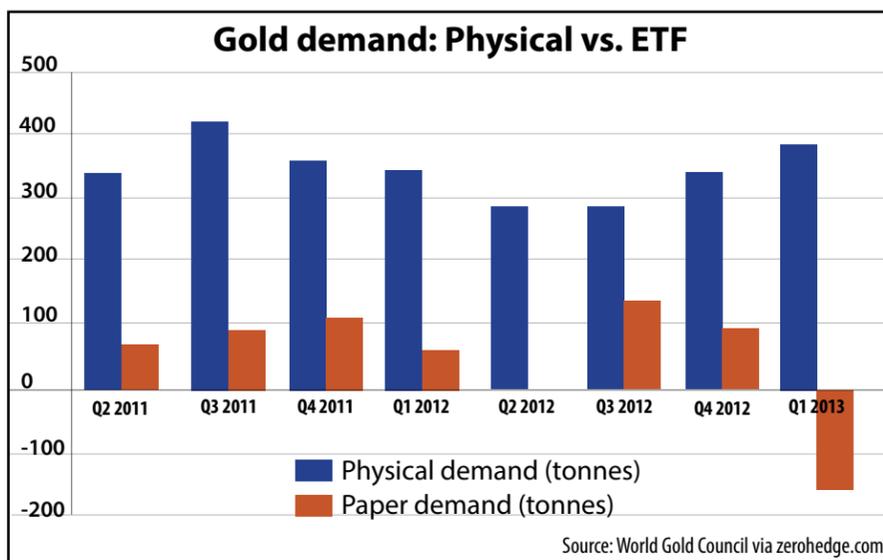
With the risk and reward curve erring too much on the side of big risk and low rewards with large banks, so-called smart money investors — including those who are investing in hedge funds — are pulling away from the big boys, such as Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO), Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan. Instead, they want other sources of value and profit. This is a general trend that's manifesting itself in several ways, but the clearest is in the bond market.

**Bond outflows**

From the middle of 2013 after the price of gold fell and stocks skyrocketed, institutional investors have been running away from all kinds of bets on credit. It seems that, for the most part, investors are worried about defaults such as the famous bankruptcy in Detroit, as well as the lowering value of holding paper obligations, whether it's to a large municipality like Detroit or Chicago, or to a large corporation such as Apple. Corporate and government debt has been tanking in value as investors leave the bond market and bond funds have seen billions of dollars leave for greener pastures.

**The key question is 'Why?'**

The answer is complex, but basically boils down to this: investors expect it to get harder and harder for large institutions such as the American government to find someone willing to give them debt. As a result, the yields that they have to pay from those debts are going up, because they're seen as a bigger risk. The bigger the risk, the more they



have to pay, just like people with bad credit scores have to pay higher interest rates on credit cards.

**Looming inflation**

Another important and more esoteric reason for the escape from the bond market has to do with future expectations. Again, this is complex, but can be boiled down to one key point: investors expect prices to go up in the future, just as they've been doing for years in supermarkets across America.

When prices are going to go up, bonds are the worst thing in which to invest. Bonds lose value over time as inflation rises and that's exactly what has been happening now because investors are selling bonds more than they're buying them because they believe prices are going to go up around the world.

This has not translated into a rising price for commodities quite yet (the money has mostly gone into stocks), but the expectation is that this will happen in the longer term. Stocks are too expensive now when analyzing a number of metrics, and this is clearly unsustainable.

When there is the expectation of inflation, there are a lot of options to choose from, but in the beginning of 2013 large professional investors eschewed almost all of them, betting instead on stocks. Most famously, gold saw a steep decline in value before summer, and quickly found a bottom at around \$1,200 to \$1,300 per ounce. As of the time of this writing, gold re-

**2013 GOLD PRICES**  
in U.S. dollars/Troy Ounce

|        | High    | Low     |
|--------|---------|---------|
| Jan.   | 1693.75 | 1645.25 |
| Feb.   | 1674.25 | 1576.50 |
| Mar.   | 1613.75 | 1574.00 |
| April  | 1598.25 | 1380.00 |
| May    | 1469.25 | 1354.75 |
| June   | 1404.00 | 1192.00 |
| July   | 1335.00 | 1212.75 |
| August | 1419.50 | 1280.50 |

Source: ycharts.com

mained in around this range.

At the same time, the bond outflows that began in June and have continued, combined with the growing mistrust of large-scale modern banking institutions, suggests that the smart money — the institutional investors and hedge funds of the world — are looking for a historically reliable alternative. This bodes well for gold, which has a longer historical track record for retaining value than any other commodity in the world.

Michael Foster is a freelance business journalist based in New York City. He can be reached at michaelryanfoster@gmail.com.

## UBS opens new vault for physical gold

Asians want bullion  
stored in SingaporeBy **MICHAEL FOSTER**  
For the GPAA

The United Bank of Switzerland (UBS) has announced that it is offering gold bullion storage for investors in Asia with a new gold vault in Singapore. UBS executives have said that the gold storage will be a service to high net worth Asian customers who are looking for a secure place to store their gold bullion amidst rising demand for the metal.

The news was released in July shortly after gold bullion fell below \$1,300 an ounce, near the minimal break-even point. This is the price where large scale gold miners can sell gold on the open market just above a loss, and is commonly seen as the lowest point that gold can go, before market demand drives

the price higher.

**Asian demand for physical gold**

In Asia, gold has historically been perceived as a store of wealth for millennia, so it is no surprise that wealthy Asians have chosen the metal as an investment. As paper gold has fallen in price on Wall Street, demand for physical gold on the streets of Beijing, Hong Kong and Tokyo has never been greater.

The demand has not been just for jewelry, either; as UBS Wealth Management regional manager Peter Kok suggests, Asians are investing in gold. "The demand for gold among Asian clients and the demand for gold custody services in Asia are always growing," Kok said.

This continued investment in gold bullion is partly the result of the explosive growth that Asian economies have seen in the last 20 years. That first wave of growth with the industrialization of Japan, South Korea, and later China,

has recently turned into a greater domestic-focused investment in the markets of Japanese, Korean, and Chinese consumers. This has led to less concentration of wealth among a few conglomerates, as small and mid-size business owners develop and grow their brands, whether it be a chain of restaurants in Shanghai, a business-to-business service in South Korea or a financial services firm in Japan.

**Choosing Singapore**

Those small business owners are in turn looking for ways to secure their wealth from a number of macroeconomic worries, one of which is, of course, the potential political instability of the local government. With an autocratic government, there is always the threat that the party can declare you an enemy of the state and confiscate as much wealth as you have within its borders. As a business-friendly free-market

UBS — Page 11

# Princess, prospector — or both?

*Pint-size panner helps mom and dad go for gold*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Bella Baraglia is a regular celebrity in mining circles from California to Alaska.

“In Alaska, half the small towns up there probably all know Bella because everywhere we went she talked to everybody about everything,” said Bella’s mom, Reb Baraglia.

Decked out in pink, the little prospector was born to dig in the dirt. Now five years old, Bella attended her very first outing when she was just three months old. Bella prospects with her parents, Reb and Jeff Baraglia from Riverside, Calif., and was still a little peanut in her mom’s belly when she attended her first gold show.

In August, Reb took Bella on an outing organized by the American Prospector Treasure Seeker store in Temecula, Calif. They prospected along the San Gabriel River, where Bella put her pink pan and matching pink scoop to good use.

“She does have a princess side to her,” Reb said. “She loves pink and she was so excited to have a pink pan, finally. She’s a pretty good mix of Daddy’s little princess and Mommy’s little tomboy. Even if she’s all decked out in a princess dress, if there’s mud around, she’s in it.”



Photos by Jim Jeffrey

Five-year-old Bella Baraglia pans for gold in the San Gabriel River with her parents, Gold Prospectors Association of America Lifetime members Jeff and Reb.

Reb and Jeff began prospecting nearly five years ago and immediately became Gold Prospectors Association of America Gold Life members. For Reb and Jeff, prospecting is another outdoor hobby to add to their repertoire, which also includes fishing, hiking and camping.

“Bella loves to play in the mud and the dirt; she takes after me completely,” Reb said. “It’s kind of a

perfect activity for us as a family.”  
Reb said her 41-year-old husband has been interested in rocks since college — he even took some geology courses.

“Jeff always says he loves unearthing something nobody has ever seen before,” Reb said.

The Baraglia family’s dedication to prospecting runs deep — all three

PRINCESS — Page 12



## UBS

Continued from Page 10

entrepôt, Singapore is a great place to store wealth away from corrupt politicians.

Another fear is the instability of the growth of their economies. China’s explosive, double-digit GDP growth cannot last forever, so Chinese citizens are waiting for the day when that slow growth leads to less economic opportunities. This could have a number of knock-off effects, such as a crash in the housing market (making real estate investments lose value), a devaluation of the Chinese yuan (thus making cash lose value), and a devaluation in Chinese stocks (since companies will have lower revenue as a result of lowered consumption growth).

With all of these concerns in the cards, savvy Chinese investors need a reliable store of wealth. Obviously, debt in other countries is unreliable, as the downgrade of the U.S. government in 2011 and the never-ending crisis in the European Union demonstrate. Foreign countries are also a fool’s choice, because they are becoming increasingly dependent on China. And, foreign currency isn’t an option, because central banks keep printing dollars and euros to make their debts lose value.

That really just leaves one reliable option: gold. And now, UBS will be there to take Asian deposits of the metal for a modest fee.

Michael Foster is a freelance business journalist based in New York City. He can be reached at michaelryanfoster@gmail.com.

## ORDWAY

Continued from Page 10

Rogers and Peter Schiff have identified 2014 as the time of reckoning when the high deficits, national debt and inflationary policies of the Federal Reserve will cause a collapse of the currency and meltdown of the economy.

Suggested strategies to weather the expected slowdown are to move investments out of the US dollars, to countries where there are higher savings, less government spending and a growing economy. The conventional wisdom has been that money will move to precious metals which has some pundits, such as Peter Schiff, predicting \$2,000 to \$5,000 gold prices.

Gold has its detractors too. Yoni Jacobs, author of the Gold Bubble and Chief Investment Strategist at Chart Capital, is predicting gold prices to drop to \$700 per ounce. He cites a strengthen-

ing dollar and slowing economic growth in the emerging markets. Jacobs views gold much like any other commodity and expects a price drop in a slowing economy. His strategy to profit from the impending collapse in gold prices is to short Gold ETF (GLD) or Miners ETF (GDX) or buy PUT options on the mining stocks because he expects they will take a “bigger hit” when the price of gold drops.

So there you have it; smart people agreeing on some things (a slowing economy next year) and disagreeing on others (where gold prices are headed). My advice is to pull out your broker statements and give your portfolio a good look. Then call your broker or other confidants among family and friends to discuss options.

Stay vigilant and good luck!

Lester Ordway is a Certified Public Accountant based in Winchester, Calif. He can be reached at lordway@gmail.com

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Photo by Jim Jeffrey

Equipped with her pink pan and scoop, five-year-old Bella Baraglia hunts for gold in Southern California's San Gabriel River with her parents, GPAA Lifetime members Jeff and Reb.

**PRINCESS**

Continued from Page 11

of them went to Rancho Cucamonga in August to show support at the unsuccessful fight for a preliminary injunction, an effort to get California suction dredgers back in the water.

But, the family isn't limited to prospecting in California. They have traveled up and down the West Coast in search of gold.

"We've done most of our gold mining out of the state of California," Reb said. "Whenever we're traveling, we try to get a hold of the local chapter where we're going to go and meet up with them. We've dealt with the Caribou Chapter

out in Idaho, the Anchorage Chapter in Alaska. Everybody's so nice when they find out we're going to be coming to town."

While Bella's attention span is still that of a five-year-old, she is learning to work that little pink pan.

"We do a lot of cleaning our concentrates out on the patio, so when we're here, we let her practice panning it down," Reb said. "She's not extremely great at it, but she has panned down and found a nugget and she's always telling everybody about that. But, she's more about the play than the gold as of right now."

*Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.*

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STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
**TEXAS****Derroll E. Ross****Higher Learning**  
**Spreading the fever in college**

Gold Prospectors Association of America Texas State Director Derroll E. Ross (kneeling, fourth from left) is joined by his daughters Melanie Ross and Kim Jackson at a gathering that drew members of GPAA chapters from Wichita Falls; Granbury, Greenville and Texarkana — all Texas chapters — and some from Oklahoma City, Okla. Ross has been an active member of the GPAA since 1991.

*State director delivers infectious gold prospecting classes*

By **KERRY LaFLEUR**

For the GPAA

At age 72, Derroll E. Ross isn't showing signs of slowing down. Quite the opposite, in fact. An active member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America since 1991, Ross has served as a member, chapter president and is currently the Texas Junior State Director.

Ross's affable nature is immediately apparent to anyone who speaks with him. His bristly, white beard somewhat obscures his smile, though the warmth of his personality is unmistakable and is as endearing as his sleepy Texas drawl.

Ross began his gold prospecting pastime with a metal detector.

"Then I thought, 'Hey Stupid! Look, all these years you've been walking across all kinds of rocks and stuff. Why not look for a little bit of paydirt, gems, minerals and whatever?'" Ross said with a laugh.

That was 22 years ago and he hasn't looked back since. Ross still metal detects, but mostly just when he wants to coin hunt.

He still remembers his first prospecting expedition and digging out the paydirt in which he found his first gold.

"I sat down, chipped it out with a rock hammer, put it into a pan. There wasn't very much gold in it, but I was excited as I was at the height of my prospecting right there. It was the first gold I ever found ... no assistance from anybody. I found it myself! It was not more than a grain or two, but that vial I've got it in now is priceless to me," he said.

Gold fever worked its way into Ross's life, but he's always kept a level head about it.

"It's an enjoyable hobby, I don't go out there every day and try to make a living off it," he said. "I do it to go out, be outside, look at nature and enjoy the outdoors with the camaraderie of good friends and family."

And, get outside he does. Ross has frequently traveled to GPAA claims throughout Texas and New Mexico.

"My forte is drywashing," he said.

Ross humbly boasts about the success of the GPAA chapters in his area and their growing numbers.

"We have a brand new chapter in Abilene," he said with pride. "I try to visit each one of the chapters that I am involved with once every three to four months and

“We aren't like, say, bass fishermen ... we don't try to hide our 'honey-holes.' We like to plan outings that are at good spots.”

work with the chapter presidents to come up with ideas for outings to keep the membership enthused."

With six to eight outings a year, this keeps Ross pretty busy, but he has his reasons for doing it.

"The camaraderie of the people and getting to meet people from all over. Here I am, going to outings and there's someone from Washington, or Alaska and here I am from Texas! You get to make lots and lots of friends at the outings, gold shows and stuff like that. We aren't like, say, bass fishermen ... we don't try to hide our 'honey-holes.' We like to plan outings that are at good spots," he said.

According to Ross, most of the outings are made possible by proceeds from the sales of panning kits at shows. "We make panning kits which consist of a pan and a bag of concentrates that we put a little bit of gold in," he said. Ross is looking forward to their next show in Arlington, Texas. "We also give demonstrations on how to pan, too," he said.

This has been a successful model for them for many years, Ross said. He recalled the first time they tried demonstrations.

"The first one we went to we got in at no charge, because we did the demonstration. At the end of the show, the girl that was in charge of it said 'I'm not going to ask y'all to come back.' I said to myself, 'Uh oh! What in the heck did we do wrong?' Then, she went on to say, 'You are coming back!' and we've been doing it ever since," he said with a chuckle.

Ross's presentation skills aren't just limited to gold shows and exhibitions. Curious by nature and feeding his hunger for knowledge, Ross wanted to know more about

the rocks "and stuff" he was traversing while prospecting so he took a geology course at a local college.

"What I found out there changed my whole attitude about prospecting," Ross said.

When his instructor found out about his hobby, Ross was asked to do a brief presentation for the class.

"Since then, I have continued to be a guest lecturer for the geology classes," he said.

His presentation now consists of a 45-minute lecture and a hands-on panning demonstration for the students. One of the most rewarding moments for Ross is when he teaches someone how to prospect and they find their first color.

"It's that 'Aha gotcha! moment' and I know I have them hooked!" he said.

And, it wasn't just the captive audience who took a shine to his teaching. Ross recalls when the dean popped in on one of his demonstrations.

"He was only going to be there like 15-20 minutes and next thing you know ... that dean stayed there for three hours, watching. Afterwards he come to me and said, 'Mr. Ross, I have had a lot of guest lecturers through the years and you're the first one I have ever seen who had 100 percent student attention.'"

And yes, he got an "A" in the class and continues to have the most engaged lecture on campus.

Ross' enthusiasm is infectious. His eldest daughter often joins him as he goes along to the chapter meetings and outings. His youngest daughter has her own drywasher and goes as often as she can. There is a concerted effort "to make everything we do with the chapters fun for everyone — wives, kids, everyone," he said.

Ross is always thinking of new ways to teach people about prospecting and works to spread the word about the GPAA. If you give him half the chance, he will deftly lure you into a conversation that will effortlessly move towards the topic of prospecting — much like gold always gravitates to the bottom of a stream — slowly, but surely it'll end up there. And, before you know it, you'll want to drop what you're doing, pack your bags and head out to a claim.

Then again, that doesn't sound like such a bad idea, now does it?

*Kerry LaFleur is a GPAA member and freelance writer and treasure hunter based in Las Vegas.*

FEATURED CLAIM  
CALIFORNIA

# Mother Lode

## Claim offers ambiance, color

*Mission accomplished despite dry conditions*

By **MICHAEL GREYSHOCK**  
For the GPAA

With wild rivers and changing forests of different characters, it's hard for anyone to focus while driving through the California Mother Lode. Of course, for me it's made even harder with all the good lookin' gold geology and workings.

The drive to the uniquely named S-Able Granma Wanna claim takes you through some of the richest gold country in the world and I highly recommend leaving yourself some extra time for stopping along the Pleistocene Ridge and enjoying the view. If more time is allowed, you can visit the town of Alleghany, where the largest pockets of gold in the world have been pulled out. The town is about 15 minutes away from the claim and is one of the most authentic Gold Rush towns to be found.

The claim covers the waters near the head of the south fork of the historically rich Oregon Creek. Tall trees with little undergrowth and just enough separation allow for ample light to filter through. With plenty of shade and a high elevation of approximately 5,000 feet, this claim is well suited for the hotter days of summer. The only difficulty of those hotter days is that the upper portion of the claim may be dry, as it was on the day I visited.

During my day at the claim, smoke filled the air from a fire some 40 miles to the south. Most days here would bring crisp, fresh mountain air to fill your lungs while working an area where old-timers left plenty of evidence to attest to their fruitful endeavors.

Parking at what would make a terrific campsite just below the claim boundary, I unpacked my gear to give a solid evaluation. Once reaching the claim, I realized there wasn't enough water to run a sluice, and with virtually no bedrock and more than enough volcanic rocks to give fits to any detector, I decided to test as many spots as I could with a pan to determine where the richest gravels were.

In a year with more sufficient rainfall, the claim would likely carry enough water year round to use a small sluice.



Photos by Michael Greyslock

This seasonally dry creek is where most of the gold was found. On this trip, there wasn't enough water to use even a small sluice, but panning behind the larger rocks produced gold every time.

Many of the bench gravels were made up of volcanic rocks, which don't usually carry gold in this region and my panning confirmed this.

The gut of the dry channel didn't provide any bedrock, so I dug out behind the largest rocks and got the deepest material I could. These pans produced gold almost every time.

The GPAA *Claims Club Membership Mining Guide* mentioned good reports of fine gold for many members and that fit with my results until I dug some material out of some tree roots exposed in a bank. The two pans I took from here resulted in a few pickers and only a speck or two of the finest gold.

At the time I was here, you could have used a dry-washer to achieve success, but I suspect most of the time the soil would be too damp. During late summer, panning or a recirculating sluice would work

efficiently, but best of all would probably be using a sluice box during times when the water flow allows it.

The gold at this claim is likely to be finer and may be spottier than some GPAA claims I have visited. But, as many of my pans showed, there is a healthy amount of gold to be found.

Access to the claim is easy, but it is a secluded and not often visited place. Reddish orange columbine flowers filled meadow areas on the creeks edge, while the depth of the stillness gave an ambiance to make a day of prospecting not really matter if it was successful or not.

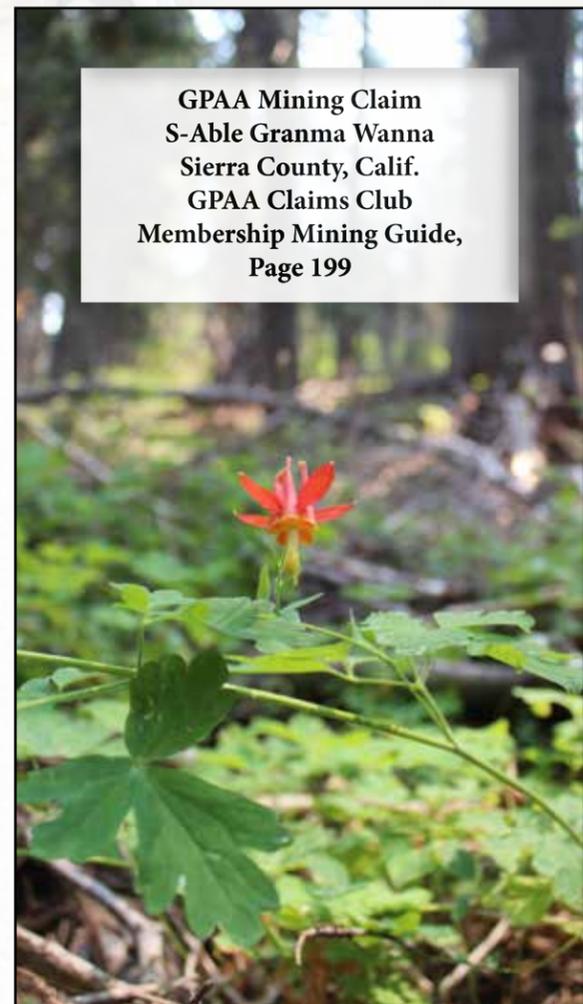
Still, I suspect most members will be putting some good color in their vials.

One important note for visiting members is that the directions from the current *Claims Guide* are a bit

☛ MOTHER LODGE — Page 15



**Above:** A dirt road ends just below the claim boundary and is a great place to camp. **Top:** Don't miss it! The author turns onto the easy-to-miss dirt road leading to the claim. **Right:** Columbine flowers add a touch of color to the forest.



GPAA Mining Claim  
S-Able Granma Wanna  
Sierra County, Calif.  
GPAA Claims Club  
Membership Mining Guide,  
Page 199



## Prepare, call before heading to claims

Please submit a mining claim report, when you visit a GPAA claim. Mining claim report forms are available in the back of the GPAA *Claims Club Membership Mining Guide*, or submit them online at: [www.goldprospectors.org](http://www.goldprospectors.org).

Members are reminded that GPAA state directors and local GPAA chapters typically have excellent recent, current local knowledge about the claims in their area. Members are encouraged to contact a state director or chapter when planning a prospecting visit to a GPAA claim. A list of state directors and chapters is printed on pages 24 and 25 of each issue of the *Pick & Shovel Gazette*.

Visit <http://transition.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDMMSS-decimal.html> to convert GPS coordinates from degrees, minutes and seconds to decimal or vice-versa.

Visit <http://www.earthpoint.us/TownshipsSearchByDescription.aspx> to convert township, range, and section to GPS or vice-versa.

### Arizona

■ **FLAT FOOT** — La Paz County: See *Mining Guide* page 94. Section number is 34.

### California

■ **DOUGLAS CITY** — Trinity County: See *Mining Guide* page 210. Gulch restoration in being done and certain areas may be fenced.

■ **NANCY'S GOLD** — Placer County: See *Mining Guide* page 171. North Fork should be Middle Fork.

### Montana

■ **BACON AND BEANS** — Sweet Grass County: See *Mining Guide* page 339. The access to this claim, Placer Gulch Trail, is closed for repair. The reopening date has not yet been announced.

■ **HOPELESS 1** — Broadwater County: See *Mining Guide* page 335. The access road to this claim is washed out and is not passable. The reopening date has not yet been announced.

### New Mexico

■ **U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** — See *Mining Guide* page 358. The phone number has been changed to (505) 954-2000.

### Washington

■ **HARD WAGES** — Yakima County: See *Mining Guide* page 459. Access is by 4-wheel drive only. Members are reminded of the requirement that they carry a copy of the current Washington Gold and Fish Book.

■ **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES** — See *Mining Guide* page 454. The telephone number has been changed to (206) 902-1450.

The GPAA Claims Department can be reached at [claims@goldprospectors.org](mailto:claims@goldprospectors.org) or by calling 1-800-551-9707 and asking for the Claims Department.

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## MOTHER LODE

Continued from Page 14

misleading.

The town of Forest is not on Highway 49, but rather up Ridge Road toward Alleghany. You would exit Highway 49 where it's marked as Ridge Road (My phone navigation called it Celestial Valley Road.) A sign also points out that Alleghany is down this road. After about 16 miles on this road, you reach a sign saying it's three miles to Forest City. (Don't be fooled; it's not a city). You take a left here and then almost immediately take a middle road at this Y that is marked as Pleistocene Ridge Road. You follow this down a couple miles to another unmarked U.S. Forest Service Road where you will go left. The claim is at the end of it, about one-third of a mile. It's a paved route all the way up to that last third of a mile.

For an ambiance of real Gold Rush country and a shot at some good gold, the S-Able Granma Wanna is a gem among the GPAA's claims.



Photo by Michael Greyshock

These are the gravels in which the author found his best color.

Mike Greyshock is a full-time prospector and freelance writer based in California. He can be reached at [mrgreishock@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgreishock@yahoo.com)

### WHY JOIN A LOCAL GPAA CHAPTER?



Photo by Brad Jones

A participant has a blast on the highbanker at Vein Mountain LDMA Camp near Marion, N.C.

# Learn it. Live it. Love it!

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

There's only so much a greenhorn gold prospector can learn on YouTube.

"There are some things that take finesse and technique and just can't be explained on YouTube as well as if you learned them from someone hands-on," said Chapters Administrator Louis Escarcega.

The best way for new Gold Prospectors Association of America members to get involved and accumulate prospecting knowledge is by joining a local GPAA chapter.

"It takes the national organization — this huge entity — and makes it personal, especially for those people who have just joined and are all by themselves," Escarcega said. "How are you gonna

make it yours? The best way to do that is to team up with like-minded people — a community of prospectors where everybody is really friendly. It's not about keeping secrets; it's about sharing knowledge of the industry."

#### Learn it!

Escarcega said the biggest perks of joining a GPAA chapter are learning, being a part of a community and staying informed. Through GPAA chapters, members are able to learn the best prospecting practices with the most up-to-date equipment. They also build relationships and receive regular communication from the GPAA.

"As a member of the GPAA, you have access to more than 350 mining claims, but even if we had only one claim, you

JOIN — Page 17

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Continued from Page 16

could go to there and you may not know where to start," Escarcega said. "If I have a family of people, a community to tell me beforehand, all the better."

**Live it!**

A chapter provides that community — that family. For Central Valley Prospectors' President and California State Director Nancy Roberts, the community aspect is vital.

"You get camaraderie. You get safety," Roberts said. "You get what a lot of people have been missing maybe for a long time in their life and that's notoriety. People notice you, people know you're there, people know your name. We're all the same people out here, and we all want that but don't always get that. If you're a loner, you don't get that. You become 'a part of.' You get to build new things with people, friendships and otherwise."

Roberts calls those who join the GPAA without getting involved in a chapter "takers," and she encourages those takers to start giving back.

"They're joining GPAA because all they care about are the claims and that's greed, in my opinion," Roberts said. "And, that's very sad, because I'm sure they have some things to offer people, but the last thing people want to be offered is greed."

Even novice prospectors have something valuable to offer the experienced ones, even if that is nothing more than a fresh perspective.

"I think you can see something with brand news eyes," Escarcega said. "Just because you're the newest doesn't mean you can't add to something that's old. I think that being a part of a chapter gives you something that you can not only take away from, but add to."

Sometimes a chapter can help members find their place in the world, Roberts said.

"They find their niche," she said. "They'll find buddies to go out and mine with away from the chapter, which comes back to safety and it gives them a sense of belonging and a sense of importance, because they are important. They're important to the chapter and they're import-

ant to the GPAA."

Roberts' Central Valley Prospectors chapter has approximately 350 active members; nearly 200 constantly attending meetings and outings. Even if members can't make it to chapter outings, Roberts said they should stay involved.

"They might not be able to go out and mine anymore, but they want to know what's happening and they like the people ... and they like being noticed. They like the camaraderie and they like the laughter."

Still, chapter outings provide the ultimate hands-on prospecting experience, Roberts said.

"If you come to an outing, that's where you're going to learn," she said. "I can teach you how to swim without water, but you won't know how to swim until you're in the water. If you want to learn, you need to come to an outing."

**Love it!**

Just one outing and Roberts guarantees new members will be hooked.

"They end up going on an outing, and they go, 'God, I had a blast!' Then they keep coming," Roberts said. "This is the

kind of stuff that you get in the community of a chapter. You make sure that no one is left behind and they all have something to do. Pass it forward, teach someone else some other day the same thing you're learning here ... that's what I think you get out of a chapter.

"Everything is equally important: safety, education, camaraderie, having fun. It's all equally important, and that is what I believe a chapter is all about."

At the end of the day, it's about being a part of something larger than life — larger than self.

"The chapters do a lot more than simply meet and go out and prospect," Escarcega said. "Chapters get together for meals, parties, gold shows. They get out and get involved in the community. They raise money for non-profits: Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. They go to schools to educate. They go to Pioneer Days, Gold Rush Days. All of these things would be much less likely to happen if you were on your own and not part of a local GPAA chapter."

*Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.*

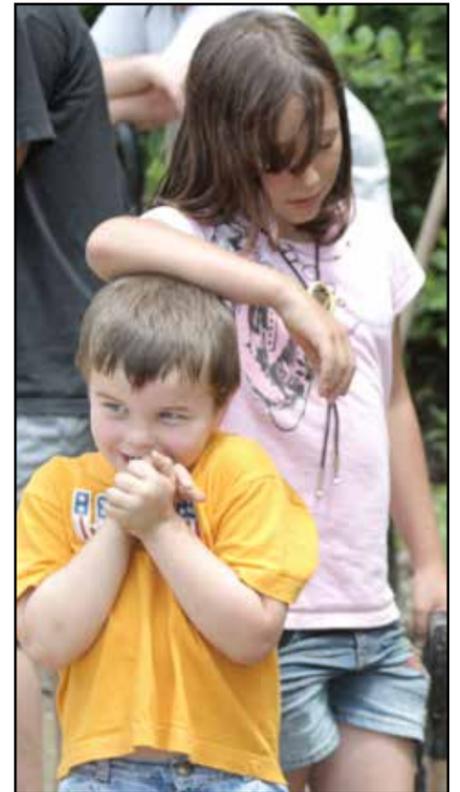


Photo by Brad Jones  
Children tucked out after working highbanker at the Vein Mountain LDMA Camp.

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# PROSPECTOR PROFILE Charlotte Foley

## She's got the need for bling

*Metal detecting for lost jewelry draws Nevada's Charlotte Foley to GPAA*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Diamonds are Charlotte Foley's best friend.

"I'm after the jewelry," said Foley, a 62-year-old Gold Prospector's Association of America member and secretary of the Las Vegas GPAA Chapter. "Give me a little bling, bling and I'm happy."

Foley, who has retired from the Alaska Department of Transportation, got into prospecting after seeing a White's metal detecting commercial on television. She figured it would be a good way to get her and her husband Brent out and about.

"My husband has diabetes, and I thought, well that would be a really good thing to motivate us to get out and go walking around ... so I called and I purchased this White's metal detector," said Foley, a GPAA member for five years.

Well, Brent didn't really take to detecting, but Foley was instantly attracted.

"If he's not here, I take the motor home out and go myself," she said.

Foley, who lives in Eagle River, Alaska, snowbirds in Vegas during the winter, and first learned about the Vegas chapter after bumping into Las Vegas GPAA Chapter President Deanna Costen.

"We came down because we were looking for somewhere to retire," Foley said. "All of a sudden, I was in a store somewhere and I heard 'gold,' and it kind of perked my ears up, so I go over and I started talking to [Costen] about it and she told me about the chapter here in Las Vegas. That's probably about four years ago."

This year Foley found herself with a little extra motor home and Nevada desert time. After breaking both of her ankles, Foley was instructed by her doctor

to stay in Vegas through the summer so she volunteered to take on the club secretarial role. Foley has also been the president of the Alaska Treasure Seekers, a metal detecting club, and is a member of the GPAA Anchorage Chapter.

Her injuries haven't kept Foley from staying involved in the GPAA or from prospecting.

"I had my walker. I had my cane. I've been going out. I may not be able to stay out very long, but I have been prospecting," Foley said. "I love to metal detect; it's pretty much my main thing."

Besides detecting parks in and around her home near Anchorage and the deserts of Nevada, Foley has gone detecting in Arizona, California, Hawaii and Tennessee. But, her best finds come from Oahu where Foley unearthed a diamond necklace and a pair of platinum earrings.

"It was really, really fun, but you have to do some research on some of the places you metal detect to find out how old the park is, to know what kind of functions go on in that park. The park in Hawaii I found out used to be an old race track for the royalty, so that's where I went looking," Foley said. "But, you do need to do some kind of research if you really want to find something worthwhile."

Sometimes that research involves waking up before the sun is shining, Foley said.

"It's funny, searching on the beach in Hawaii is not profitable," she said. "I would get up and go out at four o'clock in the morning. Well, they now have these sand scoops that kind of recirculate the sand. They go out there early in the morning to make the beaches look really nice and they catch the stuff before you get out there."

Foley has also detected battlefields in Tennessee.

"I take my metal detector anywhere I go," Foley said. "I went out there and found Civil



**Above:** Avid metal detectorist Las Vegas GPAA Chapter Secretary Charlotte Foley displays one of her many finds.

**Right:** Snowbird Charlotte Foley shows off a sample of some of the jewelry she has found in her travels. Foley takes her metal detector just about anywhere she goes and is quite often glad she did.



**Above:** GPAA Las Vegas Chapter Secretary Charlotte Foley takes her grandson, Quinton Foley, metal detecting in a park south of Phoenix, Ariz., in February 2009. **Left:** Foley attends a metal detecting hunt in Quartzsite, Ariz., in January 2010.

War bullets. And, I mean, it made your heart rush to know you found something that was 100 years old — and it could have gone through somebody."

Not only does Foley detect for fun, but she has also used her metal detecting skills to lend a helping hand. When a woman lost her treasured necklace containing the cremated ashes of her sister, Costen called Foley to the rescue.

"I found it and they called the gal up and she was just ecstatic about having it found because, you know, it was her sis-

ter," Foley said. "That was really kind of tear jerker."

Aside from metal detecting, Foley also does some panning when in Alaska and drywashing when she's in Vegas. Foley has childhood memories of running out after a rainstorm and panning for gold in puddles in Fairbanks. Now Foley passes on her prospecting knowledge to her eight-year-old grandson, Quinton, who she takes out whenever she visits him in Phoenix, Ariz.

Growing up among streams and rivers, Foley has had to adjust her prospecting techniques in Vegas and the surrounding desert areas, where water is scarce.

"It's very interesting, the difference in prospecting. We have water in Alaska and down here there's no water," she said.

One thing that rings true in both the desert and mountain GPAA clubs is the presence of good people, Foley said.

"One of the other things I like about the club is meeting different people. It was amazing when I had my accident how many people called," she said.

"When my husband went back to Alaska, he asked me how I was going to get around, and I said, 'Well, I got over 150 people I can call.' It's not like I'm alone here. It's a lot of friendship ... there's a lot of good-hearted people in the club."

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.

# Members clean up claims, environment

*GPAA's Adopt-a-Claim program encourages respect and responsibility*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

The Gold Prospectors Association of America's Adopt-a-Claim program encourages local chapters to keep local claims in tip-top shape. It allows the GPAA to reach out, team up with members and put boots on the ground across the country.

"With more than 350 claims nationwide, including Alaska, we aren't able to send staff out to make sure corner posts are up, correct signage is up, people aren't dumping trash on the claims and that people are filling in their holes," said GPAA Chapters Administrator Louis Escarcega. "We look to local chapters to adopt those claims to make sure those things are done."

The Adopt-a-Claim program connects chapters to nearby claims. Escarcega compares it to the Adopt-a-Highway or Adopt-a-Trail programs, which encourage public involvement in keeping roads and trails clean.

Besides instilling a sense of pride in the claim, adopting a claim keeps the area "safe from damage to natural resources or damage to archaeological features that exist on some sites, such as old Chinese rock walls built from tailings. It also contributes to better relations with the agencies that are responsible for overseeing these resources, making access easier on future sites as well as opening up old accesses that have previously been closed to GPAA members.

Chapters are rewarded for their care and involvement with points. Each

chapter receives 45,500 points annually.

"What that really could entail is simply one visit to the site per year," Escarcega said.

Ideally, most of the chapters adopt claims that are nearby so chapters are able to check on their claims on a regular basis. Whether regular or intermittent, chapters are encouraged to keep claim cleanup days exciting for members.

"A lot of people who have adopted a claim will make their cleanup day or official Adopt-a-Claim day at a time when they can get as many people out as possible," Escarcega said. "Let's say they're gonna do a six-hour day. They'll do three hours of cleaning and they'll spend the other three hours prospecting. That's a good way to get people involved and a good way to keep the adoption fun."

The GPAA also relies on members to call in and let us know if a claim needs

“Let's say they're gonna do a six-hour day. They'll do three hours of cleanup and they'll spend three hours prospecting. That's a good way ... to keep the adoption fun.”

attention.

"When we get calls on a claim from any of our members who may say 'There's trash out there' or 'I couldn't find the claim because there were no corner posts up' or 'Someone didn't

fill in their holes,' we contact the chapter that has adopted the claim to go out there, inspect, take before pictures, remedy the situation then take after pictures and send them in to us for documentation," Escarcega said.

Once a problem has been assessed and expenditures for remedy of the situation have been approved by the GPAA, the organization reimburses the adopting chapter for all expenses paid to clean up and make improvements to the claim.

To adopt a GPAA claim, contact Louis Escarcega at (951) 699-4749, ext. 187, or email him at [lescarcega@gold-prospectors.org](mailto:lescarcega@gold-prospectors.org). Include your chapter name, the name of the claim you wish to adopt and its page in the *GPAA Claims Club Membership Mining Guide*.

*Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.*

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BIG GULPS, FLIP FLOPS ARE FOR THE BEACH — NOT THE BACKCOUNTRY

# Prospecting preparedness 101

*Common sense and planning are key to successful outings*

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Skip your trip to 7-Eleven, and instead prepare your prospecting checklist from the comforts of your own home.

That's right, heading out to a Gold Prospectors Association of America claim is like taking on any other endeavor — go prepared or go home.

"It reminds me of being in the Boy Scouts," said GPAA Claims Director Leonard Riley. "It's been about 55 years for me, but I do remember the mantra, 'Be prepared.'"

As the claims director, Riley has received a few calls from prospectors who decided to stop and grab a Big Gulp on their way out the door instead of equipping themselves with extra water and other necessities. Preparation is half the battle, and Riley said he wants to help GPAA members get in the right mindset for their mission.

Actually, it's OK to stop at your favorite convenience store for snacks or last-minute items, as long as you already have the essentials — like extra water, food and clothing packed in your rig.

Common sense is key. Big Gulps won't sustain you in the desert and flip-flops and sandals are for the beach — not the backcountry.

Riley said every trip should begin with a planning session around the kitchen table. During that time, three phone calls should be made to various individuals and organizations. The first call should go out to the chapter that is closest to the claim you plan to prospect. The second call should go to the state director, who will be knowledgeable about the claim as well as procedures throughout the state. The final call should be made to the land management agency responsible for overseeing the land on which the claim is found.

"The best place to start is the local chapter where the claim is located," Riley said. "Stick with members who have done some prospecting and are used to going on outings. Do some reading and basic research online. Spend a few hours getting up to speed."

Aside from learning basic information about the claim, members can also learn the ins and outs of prospecting with the help of local chapter members.

"You can learn a lot from other members," Riley said. "They are anxious to teach new members. There's a lot of gold out there being missed because of impatience or because people are going too fast. These other members can teach the dynamics of finding gold. They can teach newcomers how to read a river and they can teach them the geological features to look for. These kinds of tips are invaluable."

State directors are another resource  
**PREPAREDNESS** — Page 21

## 10

# Outdoors Essentials

|  |  |                                |                                 |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>                                       | <b>4</b>   | <b>7</b>                       | <b>9</b>                        |
| <b>Navigation</b><br>map and compass           | <b>Illumination</b><br>headlamp/flashlight       | <b>Repair kit/tools</b>        | <b>Hydration</b><br>extra water |
| <b>2</b>                                       | <b>5</b>   | <b>8</b>                       | <b>10</b>                       |
| <b>Sun protection</b><br>sunglasses, sunscreen | <b>First-aid supplies</b>                        | <b>Nutrition</b><br>extra food | <b>Emergency shelter</b>        |
| <b>3</b>                                       | <b>6</b>   |                                |                                 |
| <b>Insulation</b><br>extra clothing            | <b>Fire</b><br>waterproof matches/lighter/candle |                                |                                 |

“Claims are located in the wilderness, usually quite a distance from the nearest city. We're not born with an appreciation of what can happen in the wilderness. Unfortunately, we usually learn that through trial and error ... You have to be prepared for things that might happen, but hopefully never will. — GPAA Claims Director Leonard Riley

**PREPAREDNESS**

Continued from Page 20

members should consult before heading out to a GPAA claim, Riley said.

“The state director will have information on a state-wide basis,” he said. “They can recommend certain claims to members. They can give them some idea of what the claim is like: the topography; whether they can drive in or have to walk in; limitations one might have based on the terrain; where one can park a car.”

After contacting the local chapter and the state director, members should get in touch with the land management agency responsible for the claimed land. This agency is usually either the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service.

“The member needs to call the land management agency to find out where the claim is located as well as for a couple of other reasons. No. 1 Roads may be closed. There may have been a fire, flood or rockslide. Something may have happened yesterday and you don’t know about it,” Riley said. “The agency will be able to tell members whether they can get through with a two-wheel-drive

vehicle or a 4-wheel-drive vehicle. They will be able to tell whether gates are locked or whether the member needs a special permit. Things are not always exactly the way we think they might be.”

Don’t just think of the obvious needs — a pick, shovel or pan — but make sure to think outside the sluice box. Riley said GPAA members heading out to a claim need to remember that most claims are located in the wilderness and are subject to critters and harsh conditions.

“Claims are located in the wilderness, usually quite a distance from the nearest city,” Riley said. “We’re not born with an appreciation of what can happen in the wilderness. Unfortunately, we usually learn that through trial and error. We have to be respectful of that when going into an environment that we’re not familiar with. After a while, you become more familiar, but there are some critters out there that can do you harm, such as snakes and scorpions. You have to be prepared for things that might happen but hopefully never will.”

Maps are one of the most useful and necessary tools GPAA members will need to get their hands on before heading out to their desired claim. Riley recom-

mends a topographical map so members can study up on the terrain and elevation and plan accordingly. He recommends both Google Earth and the U.S. Land Survey as helpful resources. Also, members should study the GPAA *Claims Club Membership Mining Guide* and make sure they have a working GPS before setting off on a group or solo outing.

Remember, your GPAA *Mining Guide* is like your American Express card: Don’t leave home without it!

In addition to maps, Riley recommends having a spare tire, a jack and even Fix-a-Flat — just make sure you know how to use everything you bring, he said.

“It’s like learning to fly an airplane, learning to scuba dive or sail a boat,” Riley said. “It is an endeavor that has its own specific skill set.”

**Wilderness Survival Checklist**

The original “Ten Essentials” list was assembled in the 1930s by The Mountaineers, a Seattle-based organization for climbers and outdoor adventurers. In 2003, the group updated its list and published it in the book, *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*.

**Classic 10 Essentials**

- Map
- Compass
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Extra clothing
- Headlamp/flashlight
- First-aid supplies
- Firestarter
- Matches
- Knife
- Extra food

**Updated 10 Essential “Systems”**

- Navigation (map and compass)
- Sun protection (sunglasses and sunscreen)
- Insulation (extra clothing)
- Illumination (headlamp/flashlight)
- First-aid supplies
- Fire (waterproof matches/lighter/candles)
- Repair kit and tools
- Nutrition (extra food)
- Hydration (extra water)
- Emergency shelter

— Source: [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.

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## CHAPTER PRESIDENT BROWNSVILLE, ORE.

# Roy & Wendy Houtz



Mid-Valley Prospectors President Roy Houtz dredges on a claim in the Bohemia District in Oregon in 2008. The local GPAA chapter is based in Brownsville, Ore.

# Prospecting: The great escape

## Houtz family hunts for treasure, finds purpose

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

The average household owns five devices that are connected to the Internet, according the Tech Blog on Bloomberg.com.

The Houtz family has eight.

But, these devices are not smartphones, tablets or laptops; in fact, these devices don't even connect to WiFi. No, Roy Houtz, his wife Wendy, and their 23-year-old daughter Tara, have eight metal detectors.

Roy, who is the president of the local Gold Prospectors Association of America chapter in Brownsville, Ore., began prospecting 29 years ago, a year after marrying Wendy. A friend invited Houtz to go dredging on his claim in southern Oregon, and he was hooked. Not long after, Houtz discovered the GPAA on the Outdoor Channel and joined both the GPAA and LDMA.

Before starting the Mid-Valley Prospectors chapter in 2008, Roy was driving nearly 200 miles round trip to Portland to attend GPAA meetings. A 55-year-old firefighter, Roy is the second president of the 30-person club halfway between Eugene and Corvallis, Ore.

The people are one of the main perks of prospecting, Roy said.

"You can always learn something from somebody," he said.

Roy and Wendy also share their love of prospecting because it gets them into the outdoors and away from all those other pesky devices.

"You don't have to worry about the phone ringing and people bugging you on the phone for whatever reason. I just like getting in the outdoors," Roy said. "You can sit there cooking dinner and have a deer wander right through camp. It's amazing, just getting out in the outdoors. Prospecting is kind of like hunting; it's a good excuse to go camping."

Getting out into nature isn't just about a physical escape, but also supports one's mental stability, Wendy said.

"We all need to get away, because everybody's ready to strangle their bosses or something," she said. "Up there we have no cell service, so no phones. We can take them with us, but just remember they won't work."

Besides eight detectors in the family, Roy also has three dredges and a case of gold fever.

"People say, 'What are you gonna do when you find it?' When I find it, I'll worry about it then," he said.

With all those metal detectors, he isn't just looking for gold, but also for treasures, such as jewelry.

"When my husband first went out he said, 'It's going to take me years to find my first ring.' Well, he found two that evening," Wendy said.

Back in July, Roy found his best treasure yet.

"I found some pretty nice rings with my metal detector," he said. "Last month I found a nice men's 14-carat gold ring ... you never know what you'll find with



**Above:** GPAA Brownsville, Ore., Chapter President Roy Houtz hands out a prize at the club's panning booth at the annual Pioneer Picnic in 2011.

**Left:** Mid-Valley Prospectors Chapter Member Wendy Houtz congratulates a lucky winner at the panning demonstration booth at the annual Pioneer Picnic in Brownsville, Ore., in 2013.

floods coming though and different things."

Like the prospectors in California, Oregon miners are also facing new restrictions on dredging. Roy said the state is trying to apply a moratorium much like the one in its neighboring state. For now, the permit prices for dredging have increased and the state has limited the number of dredging permits to 850, he said.

Besides writing letters to their state representatives, Roy said he and his chapter are active in educating the public about dredging and the positive effects it has on fish habitats. The club gives demonstrations at nearby businesses as well as at the annual Pioneer Picnic.

"We've done stuff with Cabela's in Springfield, promoting the GPAA and prospecting," he said. "We've been trying to let people know what we do and that dredging is beneficial to fish, contrary to what they tell you in the papers."

Another challenge the chapter faces is teaching folks to respect nature and clean up after themselves in order to

keep the land open for everyone.

"We got to take care of our area," Roy said. "Sometimes there is garbage left behind after camping. Those guys are gonna shut this down for everybody. That means that we have to come in and clean up the trash these people leave, and it takes away from our time mining."

Education and recruiting new prospectors is the only way to keep mining in the United States alive and well, Roy said.

"We're trying to get everybody involved, trying to keep the legacy of gold mining going and teaching people that yes, there is still gold out there," he said. "You don't have to go out there for the gold. You go out to have fun, and gold is the reward of doing it. It's a lot of fun. It will be kind of a lost art if we don't keep new people coming in, younger people coming in."

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California.

GOLD DUST AND WANDERLUST

# ‘Country girl’ takes life on the road, again

By SARAH REIJONEN  
For the GPAA

Four years ago, my husband and I chose to quit our jobs, sell our house and 80 acres in northeast Washington and travel the world for seven months. We’ve been going ever since.

In June, I published my first book chronicling those exciting seven months of globe trotting in a memoir entitled, *Country Girl: Letting Love and Wanderlust Take the Reins*.

Much like gold, there is something magical about the wide-open road. Many of you who are retired can relate; you live for both. Ultimately, you live for adventure in the great unknown. You live for the camaraderie of fellow prospectors. You live to see the beauty built by the hands of our maker. That’s what I want. That’s what I live for. That’s what I continue to seek during my return trip this fall to New Zealand and Australia.

My husband, Chris, a.k.a “Spanky,” and I first discovered prospecting during our month-long stint in Australia. I didn’t cling to it right away as Spanky did, but it has grown on me over time. Ultimately, I can appreciate prospecting for what it has added to my life. We have always loved the outdoors, but prospecting created a new draw to nature.

**Down Under**

Oh, the places you’ll go when gold is involved. Prospecting first led us to a dusty Outback mine outside of Kilkivan in Queensland, Australia. Then we were lured in by sapphires in where else but Sapphire in Queensland, Australia. By the time we reached New Zealand, Spanky was hooked and he futilely began jumping into streams and rivers with a pan in hand. At the time, he didn’t know what he was doing, but he still found his first flake right there in Kiwi territory. I remember the look in his eyes — that shimmer — and I knew he’d be chasing

the shiny stuff ’til the day he dies.

Upon returning from our travels, we lived the RV life for two years and worked on the road throughout California. We were free from the stresses of a mortgage and most other bills. That was living! During those two years, gold led us up and down Hwy. 49 in Gold Country. It took us up the awe-inspiring Feather River Canyon. It took us on desert four-wheeler rides through Quartzsite, Ariz. and into the Mojave Desert just outside of Randsburg, Calif.

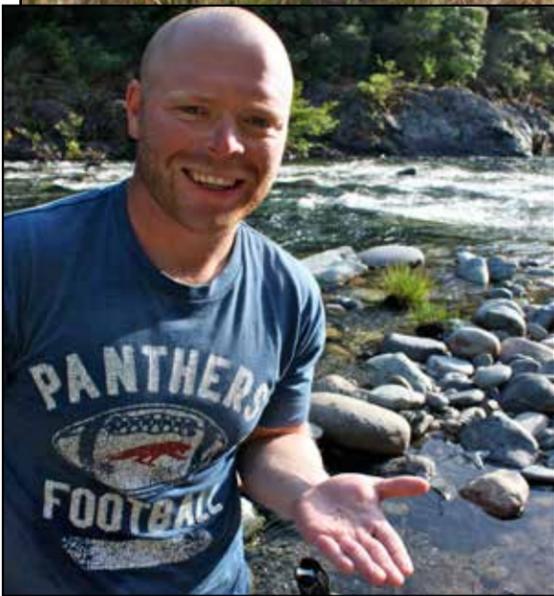
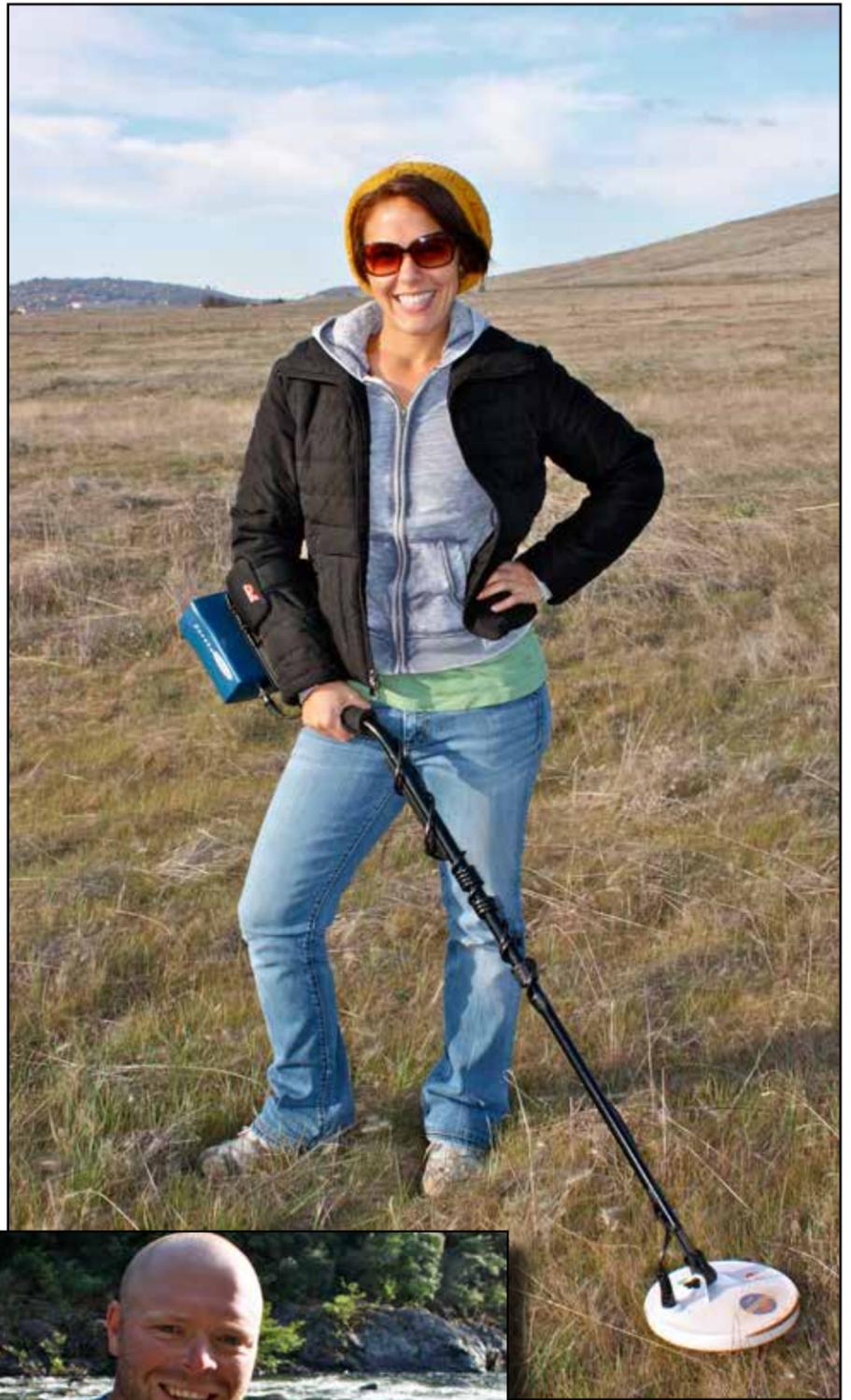
Finally, gold led us to a little creek in Placerville, Calif., where we decided to “settle down” again. My husband worked that creek for a year until he was convinced he had milked it for all the gold it was worth — then we sold our second home. We loved our little house on the creek dearly, but our bones craved the road, that great unknown. Plus, like I said, the gold was all gone.

As George “Buzzard” Massie said, “If you can find gold out there, you’re not gonna get rich at it; sometimes you won’t find any, but I’ll tell you what you will find out here — you’ll find freedom, folks.”

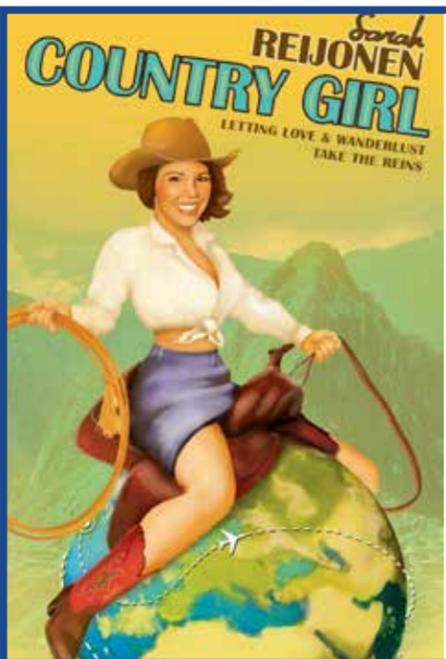
We’re heading out to find our little piece of freedom. We’re going to stake our claim in the world. We’re off again as gold takes my husband and I back to New Zealand and Australia for three months this fall, and we might not get rich doing it (we can only hope), but we certainly won’t regret the journey.

“So ...  
be your name Buxbaum  
or Bixby or Bray  
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O’Shea,  
you’re off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting.  
So ... get on your way!”

Sarah Reijonen is a freelance writer based in California. She can be reached at sarahreijonen@yahoo.com



**Above:** The author, Sarah Reijonen, does some metal detecting in the goldfields. **Left:** Chris “Spanky” Reijonen is an avid gold prospector and gem hunter. **Below:** Gold dust and wanderlust are the perfect combination for Chris and Sarah Reijonen.



**Book available online for Kindle**

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**Author:** Sarah Reijonen  
**Genre:** Travel Memoir/Armchair Travel  
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**Availability:** Book is available on Amazon and via Kindle. It is also available at limited stores throughout Washington State. For more information, visit [www.sarahreijonen.com](http://www.sarahreijonen.com) or email the author at [sarahreijonen@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahreijonen@yahoo.com).



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. — *Oh, The Places You’ll Go!* by Dr. Seuss”

## CHAPTERS CORNER

# Grant helps Idaho teachers learn how to mine for gold

*All new Family Fun Zone launched at Gold & Treasure Expo in Reno*

By **LOUIS ESCARCEGA**  
GPAA Chapters Administrator

I always like to hear stories of greenhorns teaming up with one or more of our local GPAA chapters. Being a newbie myself and feeling welcomed by all of our chapter members who I've had the chance to meet at outings, Gold & Treasure Expos or this year's GPAA Chapter Summit in Las Vegas, you have all made me feel like family.

When I helped to coordinate a recent Chapter Membership Kit Sale, I knew there were some greenhorns that were about to be "loved on!"

Recently, GPAA member Thomas Kohler, who is also a member of the GPAA's Caribou Chapter in Idaho Falls, Idaho applied for a government grant to pay for 32 one-year GPAA memberships for some of his fellow teachers in Idaho and the funds were awarded.

Kohler and the rest of this group take part annually in the Idaho Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Summer conference where Kohler headed up placer-based education. This year specifically: The Math and Ecology of Placer Mining.

Kohler and the faculty of different Idaho schools were looking to answer some questions such as: 'What are the costs of having a mining company? Would it be profitable to mine in this area? Is it harmful to the environment?' among others.

To answer these questions, some of the teachers' activities included learning how to pan for gold and how to locate a mining claim using principal meridian, township, range, and section.

The teachers teamed up with the Caribou GPAA Chapter on a field trip to look at heavy-duty mining equipment. Part of their outing with Mario Poletti, president of the Caribou chapter, and some of the other Idaho Falls chapter members was to build a piece of mining equipment. This year's project was building rocker boxes. This was a real hands-on experience. They didn't just see it; they did it!

Kohler has written many grants in the past that have been approved including one asking to pay for expenses to take the teachers out to mine. Currently, Kohler has written a grant asking for funds to purchase mining equipment for this group and he says, "The teachers will use their memberships, knowledge, and newly found gold fever to pass along the 'Prospecting 101' to their students."

Way to go Thomas! And many thanks to Mario Poletti and the GPAA Caribou Chapter of the GPAA.

### Family Fun Zone

An email recently went out to the GPAA chapters that are hosting the five remaining 2013 Gold & Treasure Expos requesting help with an all new feature being offered — the GPAA Gold & Treasure Expo Family Fun Zone. This activity area was created and is provided for kids of all ages and is geared to introduce them as next generation of gold prospectors into



Photos by Tom Kohler

**Above:** Teachers in iSTEM's The Math and Ecology of Placer Mining course pose with their equipment, ready to find gold at Eagle Creek near Prichard, Idaho. **Bottom left:** Teachers feed paydirt into a very effective piece of homemade equipment provided by "Pee Wee" and Bob Lowe. **Bottom right:** Tom Kohler gives refresher panning lessons to teachers at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



the small-scale mining community and all it has to offer. For the remaining 2013 expos, the booth will offer the opportunity to participate in hands-on experience in three areas of our industry, all free of charge:

- Gold panning lessons
- A rock craft station with geology lesson
- A scavenger/treasure hunt for prizes.

There are plans for the future to add the following activities: Metal detecting hunts, pioneer activities and story time.

Recently, Dale Wahlfeldt, President of the Inland Empire Prospectors, the GPAA chapter based out of Highland, Calif. and a handful of people from the GPAA tested out the Family Fun Zone at three local area Boys and Girls club and they could instantly tell this would be a hit with the

next generation of miners.

The next step was to take the Family Fun Zone on the road, and that's exactly what we did at the Gold & Treasure Expo in Reno. Larry Robbins, president of the Northern Nevada GPAA Chapter and many of its members stepped up and facilitated the booth all on their own. With a steady flow of kids of all ages throughout the two-day event, there was always panning to do and fun to be had — not to mention a speed panning lesson for *Yours Truly* in which I went head to head with GPAA Executive Director of Operations Dominic Ricci.

The smiles on the kids' faces told all of us at the Gold Prospectors Association of America all we need to know. The Family Fun Zone is a hit! If this fun is something you want to be a part of, and you are planning to

attend one of the upcoming Gold & Treasure Expos, please contact your chapter officers for a volunteer application so we can get your name on the roster.

### Join or start a GPAA chapter in your area

For those GPAA, LDMA and Lifetime members who don't yet belong to a local GPAA chapter, they are free to join and your best bet for meeting new friends and finding more gold! Need we say more? For more information about joining or starting a GPAA chapter in your area, please call me at 1-800-551-9707 or send an email.

*Louis Escarcega is the Chapters Administrator for the Gold Prospectors Association of America. He can be reached at [gpaachapters@goldprospectors.org](mailto:gpaachapters@goldprospectors.org).*

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*This issue's featured GPAA state director is Derroll E. Ross of Texas. See story on Page 13.*

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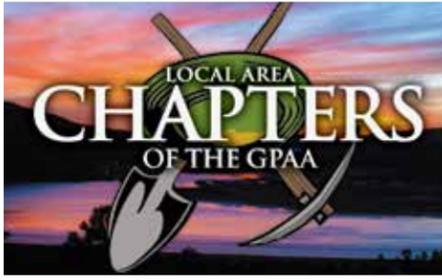
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The best way to get the most out of your GPAA/LDMA membership is to join a local chapter. Chapters are free to join and designed to help, teach, advise and inform members! Chapters are a great way to share your passion for gold prospecting with others!

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If you need to change or add chapter information, please email [gpaachapters@goldprospectors.org](mailto:gpaachapters@goldprospectors.org) or call 1-800-551-9707. All changes must be submitted in writing by email or regular mail and must be requested by a current chapter officer.

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### A big THANK YOU to our Chapter Summit Sponsors!!

I am so impressed and privileged to work every day with some of the most amazing businesses and people around.

GPAA held our 3rd annual Chapter Summit meeting on April 26th in conjunction with our Gold and Treasure Expo in Las Vegas. You know what they say ... What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas, but what I can share is how the generosity of these companies' contributed to our success.

The Chapter Summit Sponsors donated their products and services specifically for GPAA members to enjoy and enrich their prospecting experiences. What I found so amazing was not just the generosity of our Chapter Summit sponsors, but the thoughtfulness they put into the donated items.

When it comes time for you to buy mining equipment or replace your mining equipment, please remember the companies that so generously gave to your membership and support them with your patronage.

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# OUTINGS & EVENTS

## WE WELCOME YOUR SUBMISSIONS

The Gold Prospectors Association of America invites you to list your outings and events.

Please submit your outings and events by email to [publications@goldprospectors.org](mailto:publications@goldprospectors.org). Please submit at least four months before the actual event is to occur. Don't forget to include your full name and phone number for verification, a contact name and phone number of the event organizer for publication and the five Ws — Who, What, Where, When, Why — and How.

### Send us your local GPAA chapter outings and events

If you have an event you wish to announce, please notify us by email at [publications@goldprospectors.org](mailto:publications@goldprospectors.org) at least four months prior to the event.

### Springfield Thunderegg Club Rock and Gem Show

**October 5 & 6, 2013**

Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Guy Lee Elementary School, 755 Harlow Road, Springfield, Ore. Free admission. Contact: Jim Nelson at (541) 687-8100 or [two rocky@aol.com](mailto:two rocky@aol.com) or Patricia Engleman, [thunderegg.rockclub@gmail.com](mailto:thunderegg.rockclub@gmail.com)

### 33rd Annual Portland Gem and Mineral Show

**Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Clubs**

**October 11, 12, & 13, 2013.**

Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and, Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave., Hillsboro, Ore. 97124 (across from Hillsboro Airport). Adults \$5 Children under 12 free with paid adult admission. Contact: L. Smith, PO Box 5401, Portland, OR 97228, [Portland.regionalDealerChair@gmail.com](mailto:Portland.regionalDealerChair@gmail.com)

### Marysville Rock and Gem Club to hold 39th Annual Show

**October 12 & 13, 2013**

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Totem Middle School Cafeteria, 7th St. and State Ave., Marysville, Wash. Admission and Parking Free. Contact: Brian Murril (425) 346-9313, [bmurril@aol.com](mailto:bmurril@aol.com)

### 47th Annual From Rocks to Gems

**Hells Canyon Gem Club**

**October 19 & 20, 2013**

Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10



a.m. to 5 p.m. at Nez Perce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Ave., Lewiston, ID. Adults \$2; Children under 12 free with paid adult admission. Contact: Linn Enger (208) 746-4957, [engerocks@yahoo.com](mailto:engerocks@yahoo.com)

### CMGC 2013 Golden Jubilee

**Clackamette Mineral & Gem**

**October 26 & 27, 2013**

Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave., Canby, Ore. 97013. Admission Free. Contact: Rick Maurer (503) 691-6395, [tallerricardo@juno.com](mailto:tallerricardo@juno.com)

### Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Show

**24th Annual Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society's Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show**

**Nov. 8, 9 & 10, 2013**

Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Jackson County Fairgrounds, Pascagoula, Miss. The show will feature 25 dealers with gems, minerals, fossils, beads and jewelry. Adults \$3, Three-day passes \$5, Children free with paid adult admission. Some dealer space still available. Contact: Bill La Rue (228) 229-8781, [wildbill2736@att.net](mailto:wildbill2736@att.net)

### Annual Fall Sale

**Maplewood Rock and Gem Club**

**Nov. 9 & 10, 2013**

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th St. SW, Edmonds, Wash. 98026. Free admission. Contact: Lauryn MacGregor, [little-toad@att.net](mailto:little-toad@att.net), PO Box 5657 Lynnwood, WA 98046

### Fall Festival of Gems

**Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society**

**November 23 & 24, 2013**

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The President's Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, Wash. 98311. Free Admission.

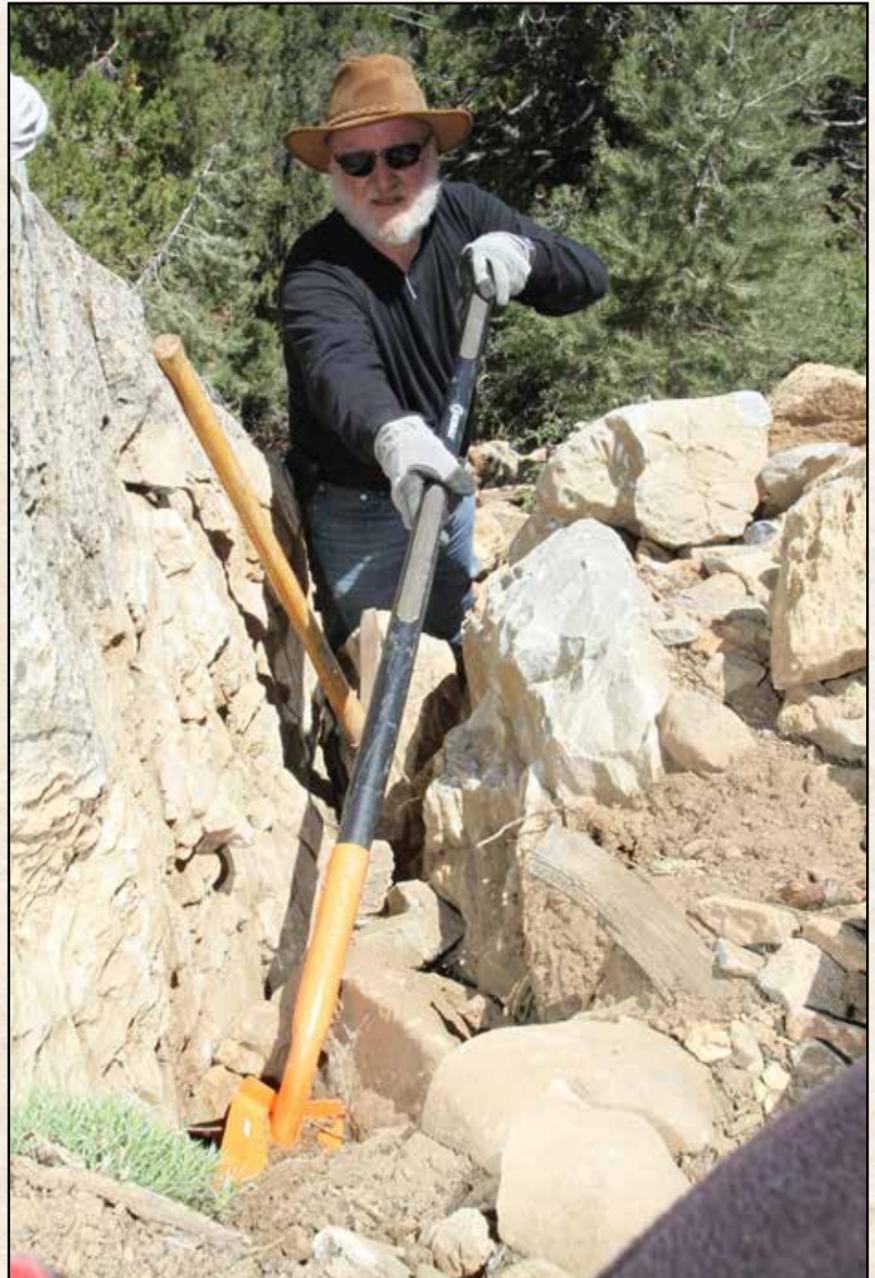


Photo by Brad Jones

GPAA member Mike Schooley uses a trench shovel to do some crevicing for gold in the San Bernardino Mountains at a recent outing of the Route 66 Gold Miners. The local GPAA chapter, based in Brea, Calif., is a very active and successful chapter.

Contact: Gordon Eslava (360) 621-2233, PO Box 3342, Silverdale, WA 98383

### 2nd Annual Winter Bazaar

**Maplewood Rock and Gem Club**

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026; Free admission. Contact: Lauryn MacGregor, [little-toad@att.net](mailto:little-toad@att.net), PO Box 5657 Lynnwood, WA 98046

### 49th Annual Show — Sweetheart of Gems

**Whidbey Island Gem Club**

**Feb. 8 & 9, 2014**

Whidbey Island Gem Club, Oak Harbor Senior Center, 51 SE Jerome St., Oak Harbor, Wash. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission; Member exhibits, demonstrations, dealers, rough and finished rock and gems, slabs, silent auction, door prizes, raffle, spinning wheel. Contact: Keith Ludemann (360) 675-1837 or [rock9@whidbey.net](mailto:rock9@whidbey.net)

### 66th Annual Gem & Mineral Show featuring Geodes

**Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society**

**March 29 & 30, 2014**

Sweet Home High School Activity Gym, 1641 Long St.; Sweet Home, Ore. Saturday — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: 50 cents. Children 12 & under free when accompanied by a paid adult. Raffle, displays, dealers, snack bar, door prizes, demonstrations, handicap parking. Contact: Joe Cota at (541) 451 2740 or PO Box 2279, Lebanon, OR 97355

### 53rd Annual Parade of Gems

**Yakima Rock & Mineral Club**

**April 12 & 13, 2014**

Washington National Guard Armory, 2501 Airport Lane, Yakima, Wash. Saturday — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$3.50, Students \$2, Age 12 and under free with paid adult. Dealers, demonstrations, food, gold panning, silent auction, Jr. activities, grab bags, door prizes, raffle, spin a wheel. Contact: Marti Sondgeroth [marthams@q.com](mailto:marthams@q.com) or 509-248-6401 evenings

### West Seattle Rock and Gem Show

**West Seattle Rock Club**

**April 26 & 27, 2014**

Aiki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Ave. SW, Seattle, Wash; Saturday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Free admission. Contact: Lyle Vogelpohl at (206) 932-3292 or PO Box 16145, Seattle, WA 98116

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Photo by Brad Jones

There is a first-time for everything. New prospectors (from left) Sheila Buehn, Nancy Carr and Moira Hayward dig in at a recent outing of the Route 66 Gold Miners local GPAA chapter. The outing was held at mining claims in the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California.

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**Works wet or dry! No water pump required!**

The 17-inch Gold Magic® pan is computer designed for maximum gold recovery. Gold starts to separate from other material and move into the removable center cup in 30 to 45 seconds.

The pan is set at an approximate 45° angle. When prospecting wet, the water line needs to be set at the center of the pan. As the pan rotates, you shovel sand and gravel material into the pan at the 3 to 4 o'clock position of the pan. There are 69 agitator knobs, (1B), in the primary processing area of the Gold Magic pan. These agitator knobs move through the material in rapid succession causing it to mix and tumble, all designed to quickly get the gold into area (1-C). The larger, low density materials will be expelled from the pan while the heavier, smaller materials (black sand, gold, platinum, and gemstones) will be carried up the spiral riffle into the removable concentration cup.

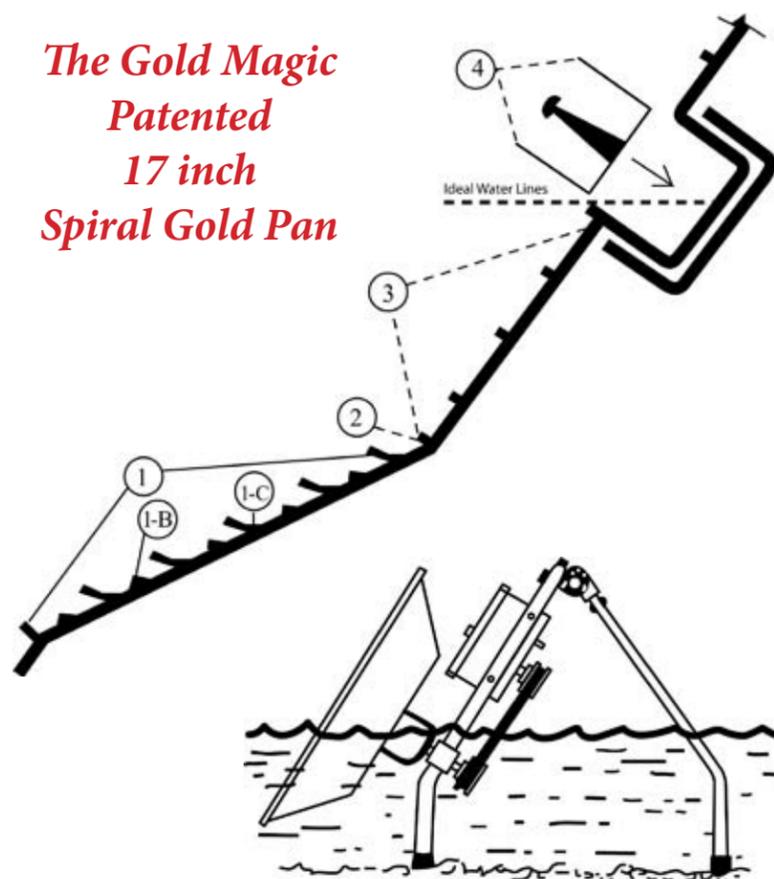
( Area 1) This is the primary classification area - all materials, sand, gravel, etc. (wet or dry) is shoveled into this area. Large size and most low specific gravity materials roll out of the pan as it rotates. Heavy weight materials (gold) sink to the lowest point at the joining of riffle and the pan (1-C) and commence rotating toward areas (2,3,4).

( Area 2) This is the riffle transition and large nugget recovery area. Nuggets too large to spiral up the riffle in area (3) into concentrate cup (4) will remain in area (2) until visually sighted and removed.

( Area 3) This is the secondary classification area. The heavy material, (high specific gravity) like gold, platinum, flour gold and black sand, will continue to travel at the low point where the riffle joins the pan (1-C), to area (4). Most light (low specific gravity) material falls from the riffle in area (3) and it's ultimately ejected from the pan.

( Area 4) Final classification area. Here you immediately see the results. The gold settles in the removable cup (4). As it continues to tumble wet, it is "cleaned up" with a gentle splash of water and is ready for removal. Dry gold concentrate is removed from here for final wet cleanup.

*The Gold Magic  
 Patented  
 17 inch  
 Spiral Gold Pan*



**SIDE VIEW IN WATER**